# THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

### Road to Redesign Of Cesar Chavez Street a Bit Bumpy

By Corrie-M. Anders

Amajor redesign proposed for a rough-and-ready stretch of Cesar Chavez Street is starting to create a stir in Noe Valley—both among ardent supporters as well as among critics who worry the changes will snarl commute-hour traffic.

The traffic-calming plan centers on a one-mile section of Cesar Chavez Street that runs from Potrero Avenue near the 101 freeway to Guerrero Street on the eastern edge of Noe Valley.

The key feature would reduce three lanes of traffic to two lanes in each direction along the thoroughfare, which is the principal route feeding commuters between the freeway and several residential neighborhoods.

On one side of the issue are advocates like Castro Street resident David Wilbur, who complains that Cesar Chavez is like a racetrack with motorists "playing Mario Andretti with each other."

On the other side are skeptics like Nancy McGee, who regularly takes Cesar Chavez as the quickest connection between her 23rd Street home and her workplace.

"Anything that screws up the commute



A plan to reduce car lanes along Cesar Chavez Street from Guerrero to Potrero is getting resistance from some Noe Valley drivers. But cyclists and pedestrians are appreciative of proposed changes, which include bike lanes and a landscaped median strip.

Graphic caurtesy San Francisca Planning Department

would be a nightmare," she said.

This spring, the proposal, which several neighborhood groups in the Mission and in Bernal Heights have already endorsed, was wending its way through the city's Planning Department. Intended to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

### Local Artists Turn from Cancer to Canvas

By Lorvaine Sanders

Local artist Nanci Reese jokes that she has always felt like something of a copycat when it comes to Greg Carlisle. On the day they met at Cafe Babar in 1980, Reese learned that Carlisle was also an artist and asked him about his work. He said he was experimenting with mounting toys on wooden boards. Coincidentally, so was she.

"For me, it was love at first sight," declares Reese, 57, who has lived on Dolores near 23rd Street since arriving in San Francisco in 1979.

Fast-forward 25 years, through the

couple's 17-year relationship and subsequent breakup, through the decade of friendship that followed. Stop in December 2005, when doctors discovered a malignant tumor the size of a tennis ball in Carlisle's brain and rushed him into surgery. Carlisle, 69, emerged minus the tumor, but with a large scar traversing the side of his skull and months of radiation and chemotherapy ahead.

Just over a year later in February 2006, Reese would receive a strikingly similar scar of her own. Doctors found an arteriovenus malformation, or AVM, in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15



Painters Nanci Reese and Greg Carlisle have seen their artwork as well as their friendship strengthen while they've endured bouts of cancer in recent years.

Photo by Pamela Gerard



Phata by Pamela Gerard

### **Noe Valley Honey Fit for a Princess**

By Olivia Boler

Ma 'mild-mannered office manager in a Berkeley consulting firm,' and his partner, Deno Marcum, is a project coordinator and a former Stars chef. Together, these humble 23rd Street residents are courtiers to the latest Noe Valley royalty: Pollen Princesses, otherwise known as a hive of honeybees.

Actually, Pollen Princesses is more than just a bee colony. It's also the brand name for Cooper and Marcum's honeymaking business, whose signature label is Noe Valley Honey.

"The [Pollen Princesses] name comes from the fact that all of the worker bees that gather pollen and nectar are female," Cooper explains. "Even more so, within a colony they're all sisters, having hatched from eggs laid by the queen bee. Since they are all daughters of the queen, we figure they are all princesses that go out to gather the pollen for the hive."

Marcum adds, "I think one of us just blurted out the name, and it stuck since

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

# Book Week Brings Out Favorite Authors & Stories

By Heather World

Noe Valley is unusually rich in independent bookstores, and this year's Noe Valley Celebrates the Book Week will offer a little nugget from each of our literary havens. Sponsored by the Friends of Noe Valley and the booksellers themselves, the wordfest is now in its third year of fanning literary passions.

"Noe Valleyans are great readers—there are a million book groups—and we like to celebrate that," says event organizer Mindy Kershner. "To have a vibrant community, we need to have these stores."

The week starts at 7 p.m. on Monday, April 20, at the San Francisco Mystery Bookstore, 4175 24th Street, with two local authors. Cara Black will read from the newest book in her series of Paris-based mysteries, *Murder in the Latin Quarter*, which received a glowing review in the *New York Times*, says bookstore owner Diane Kudisch. Kudisch also invited Lisa Lutz, who will read from the third book in her series about the Spellman family, a quirky clan of private investigators based in San Francisco.

"She gives a lot of local flavor," Kudisch says.

Last year, about 35 guests showed up to munch food while listening to stories.

"We do it to introduce the neighborhood to local authors," Kudisch says, "We get people coming from all over the city and sometimes from Marin." Call 415-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

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- New App Launched in Noe: Fritter
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### In Support of Father Tony

Editor:

[Re: "Obama Icon Raises the Ire of Local Pastor," February 2009 Voice]

We live in a country which gives us the right to express our opinions, either for, or against. Father Tony LaTorre of St. Philip's has the right to do the same. Also, being the pastor of his parish, it is his duty to guide his people on matters which he feels are inappropriate. And that is exactly what he did.

Many people, as well as many parishioners, do agree with Father Tony. Although items, cards, etc., featuring caricatures of religious icons (no matter what religion) may be funny, some people are offended, insulted, and angered by the representation of the figure in this way. And they have a right to voice their anger and disapproval.

There should be more people in this world, and this community, who have the

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พพพ*.ทอevallevvoice.com* The Noe Valley Voice is an independent newspaper published monthly except in January and August. It is distributed free in Noe Valley and vicinity, on or before the first Friday of the month

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guts to stand up for their beliefs even if it goes against popular, modern-day opinions. Father Tony is such a person and should be applauded.

Tom DiSerio Danny Forchione Jan Lenzini Jane Aronowicz

### If the Candle Were Islamic...

I have my differences with Fr. LaTorre but agree with him that anti-Catholic bigotry is the last acceptable prejudice.

Let's see what happens if the marketing geniuses at Just for Fun extend the line to include a candle depicting Obama as Mohammed. Wouldn't that be hilari-

I guess I'll just turn the other cheek.

Rick Carell Noe Valley

### **Another Role Reversal**

So...the learned Fr. LaTorre writes: "I am sorry the owner of this store, who happens to be Jewish, feels the need to mock and ridicule the Catholic/Christian faith. I am urging all you Catholics, for a change, to stand up for your faith and stay out of 'Just for Fun.' But be sure to poke your head in the store and tell them why. It is time that our faith, our beliefs, and our Lord are respected."

Here's an appropriate response:

"I am sorry the caretaker of this 'church,' who happens to be anti-Semitic in accordance with his faith, feels the need to mock and ridicule people of science/non-believers. I am urging all you non-believers, for a change, to stand up for your reason and stay out of St. Philip's 'church.' But be sure to poke your head in the taxpayer-assisted building and tell them why. It is time that our honesty, our reason, and our intelligence is respected.

> David Podger 24th Street

### Loose Dogs Can Be Deadly

Editor:

I am personally aware of two attacks by unleashed dogs on 26th Street within the past month. My 4-pound dog and I were viciously attacked by an unleashed 80-pound dog in the 4200 block of 26th Street. With the blessings of the universe my baby survived. She sustained permanent disfigurement and we both sustained post-traumatic stress disorder, but with the continued blessings of the universe we are going to be okay. The attack dog's owner has paid almost \$5,000 in veterinarian bills so far, and remains liable for much more.

The second attack occurred in the 4100 block of 26th Street and was witnessed by my neighbor. Two women were walking two unleashed dogs, and one of the dogs

### A Survey of "Downtown Noe Valley"

In early February, I got into a little bit of a snit about what I thought was an excess of women's clothing stores on 24th Street. This led to my doing a small survey of what really is on 24th Street. To my surprise, there were not, in fact, too many shops that sell clothes to women: only seven out of 143 surveyed shops.

I counted only the shops on 24th Street from Chattanooga to Douglass streets, the block of Castro between 24th and Jersey, and the shops on the side streets that were in buildings facing 24th. So, a few businesses that may be considered local but are on upper floors are missing from the tally. Still, this list gives a good idea of what and how many stores we have.

I did not expect the numbers to be so high, nor did I expect the shops to be as balanced. Friends in small towns were amazed when they saw the list!

> James Leal Retired architect, 24th Street

### 24th Street Retail Catalog

rood Ketali	Bar	Pet Food/Grooming2
Bagels 2	Barber I	Photo/Camera 1
Bakery	Bicycles2	Post Office1
Cheese1	Books 3	Pottery1
Coffee 3	Children's Clothing2	Real Estate7
Corner Grocery 2	Cookware1	Toys1
Deli/Takeout 2	Drugstore1	UPS1
Donuts1	Dry Cleaner/Laundry . 4	Used Clothing 2
Farmers Market1	Exercise2	Subtotal74
Restaurants, General. 16.	Eyewear4	
Pizza 3	Financial Planning3	Women's Retail
Supermarket1	Flowers 3	Beauty Salon3
Wine & Liquor 4	Gifts7	Jewelry 3
Subtotal37	Hardware1	Nail Parlor12
	Health I	Women's Clothing 7
General Retail	Home Furnishings2	Women's Cosmetics 3
AAA	KnittingI	Women's Shoes (Men) 3
Art Supply1	Law 3	Women's Sports I
Auto Repair1	Medical 4	Subtotal32
Bank 4	News/Magazines1	TOTAL 143
Dank	110119/11106021110311	101712 143

grabbed a cat by the neck and shook it to death. The dog's owner was horrified and told my neighbor that her dog had never displayed aggressive behavior before. Her dog's lack of prior aggressive behavior did not save the cat or comfort the cat's guardian.

Every day I encounter unleashed dogs on the streets of Noe Valley. I have lived in several different neighborhoods in San Francisco, but I have not encountered so many unleashed dogs in any other part of the city. We all think we know our precious pets, and we think they are harmless. We cannot predict their behavior. We live in a high-density city with leash laws. By following the leash laws, you protect others from harm and you also protect yourself from liability.

James Deveny 26th Street

### A Voice from the Past

Editor [This was addressed to Voice editor and co-publisher Sally Smith]:

I don't know if you'll remember me, but I can't resist the shout out. We were compadres at the beginning stages of the NVV in 1977. I saw Milk recently, and the girl in the movie that becomes Harvey Milk's campaign manager reminded me of you (hair), so it made me do a search for the Noe Valley Voice. What an amazing surprise to find you still in business and having grown the paper into such a

beautiful success story.

I tend to think of my time in San Francisco as a lost weekend, but the memory of Harvey Milk, the column he gave us, and the fact that you kept the masthead I had a hand in brings back fond memories. Odd to find universal development issueş are closing businesses that I also remember, like Bell Market and Streetlight Records. Hope you're well and continuing to rock the road.

> Lorraine Forte New York, N.Y.

Editor's Note: Of course we remember. Back in '77, Lorraine Forte, a budding artist and graphic designer, sketched the Twin Peaks silhouette for the Voice logo and chose the Caslon Autique type for our column headers. She also donated many hours and sheets of press-on letters to the cause. We miss her and wish she'd come back to rebrand us.

### Of Whole Foods and Old-Timers

While I am less than sanguine about the prospect of having a chain store move into the neighborhood, and would have far preferred a locally owned business such as Bi-Rite or Mikeytom, the reality is that something had to fill the void left by the departure of both Real Food and, thankfully, Ralphs [Bell Market]. I hope that some of Whole Foods' products will

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

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# LETTERS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

be affordable to those of us who don't have mansions on the hill. [However,] I would like to publicly thank and acknowledge the efforts of Andrew Calabresc, Whole Foods' liaison to Noc Valley, who has done an excellent job of community networking and outreach.

At present, the only small businesses that might be negatively affected by Whole Foods' operations seem to be Common Scents and the 24th Street Cheese Company. It is up to all of us to continue patronizing and supporting these folks. They are two of the few remaining "old-timers" in our community.

Patrick Monk 24th Street

### **Research Tip**

Editor:

I'm volunteering with the Stanford Historical Society and appreciated finding online the March 2004 article by Rosie Ruley Atkins about Leo Holub's photographing students on campus and about his life's work. Thanks for making it available!

Judee Humburg Menlo Park, Calif.

Our website at www.noevalleyvoice.com has Voice issues dating back to 1996. Older editions are stored in the History Room of the Main Library.

—Ed.

### On the Road to Cesar Chavez Redesign

Editor:

Noe Valley's neighbors in the Mission and Bernal Heights have been working for over three years to civilize the traffic on Cesar Chavez Street and make that corridor safer and more welcoming for all who cross or travel along it. The community group CC Puede [Cesar Chavez Yes We Can] has organized events and publicized the process through neighborhood newspapers, meetings, and local outreach. Designs now moving through the official planning process include a landscaped median, bike lanes, bulb-outs at intersections, and pedestrian-scale lighting.

Drivers from other neighborhoods have begun to express concern about potential congestion and resentment about not being informed earlier. No one has been excluded from the process, but outreach has been concentrated in the most

immediately affected blocks, mostly due to thinly stretched volunteer resources. It's also difficult to contact and inform drivers, who are separated from one another and moving too fast to read flyers posted on poles or in shop windows.

Some staunch opponents of the proposal have long been included on the CC Puede mailing list, thus receiving notice of every new development. But evidently, these individuals haven't spread the word to their fellow drivers. Proponents should hardly be held responsible for not organizing their own opposition. Still, we encourage skeptics to weigh in now if they haven't had a chance already.

As for the project itself, we don't expect it to be as hostile to drivers as they may assume. In fact, many, if not most, of the proponents drive themselves, and have no fears that the proposed changes will make this more difficult. Increased congestion is in no one's interest, as angry drivers also make life miserable for pedestrians: blocking crosswalks, making sudden turns, and speeding on smaller streets if they get frustrated on main ones.

The proposal for Cesar Chavez reconfigures the traffic lanes from three in each direction to two, but it also adds left-turn pockets in both directions at Folsom and eastbound at South Van Ness, while forbidding left turns elsewhere (existing pockets at Mission and Bryant would remain). This change will smooth traffic flow by avoiding the impatient lines that now form behind turning cars.

Anyone wishing to stay informed of future meetings and discussions can go to http://www.sfgov.org/site/uploadedfiles/planning/City\_Desigu\_Group/CDG\_mis siou\_cesarchavez.htm and sign up.

You can also join the CC Puede mailing list by writing to *frances.taylor@cmpmedica.com* or 2982 26th Street, SF, 94110. I'm happy to answer any specific questions, and more information is provided on the CC Puede website at *www.ccpuede.org*. Please speak up if you're worried about this project.

Fran Taylor Co-chair, CC Puede

### LETTERS to the EDITOR

THE VOICE welcomes your letters to the editor. E-mail editor@noevalleyvoice.com or write the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. Please intlude your name, address, and phone number. (Anonymous letters will not be considered for publication.) Be aware that letters may be edited for brevity or clarity. We look forward to bearing from you



When she wasn't running Shufat Market on 24th Street, E'nam Abu-nie (right) was enjoying her large extended family.

Photo courtesy Abu-nie family

### E'nam Fatima Abu-nie, 1958-2009

A Devoted Mother and Shopkeeper

By Steve Steinberg

E 'nam Fatima Abu-nie, wife of the owner of Shufat Market at the corner of 24th and Church streets, has passed away. Abu-nie, a warm, smiling person known to many of her Noe Valley customers as "Maria" or "Mrs. Shufat," died of a stroke on Jan. 14 at the age of 50. According to her niece, Suhad Omar, she collapsed in front of her house on Church Street on Jan. 12. Rushed to the hospital, she died two days later,

Abu-nie was born in East Jerusalem before the Arab-Israeli Six-Day War of 1967, when East Jerusalem was still controlled by Jordan. She married at the age of 15 and emigrated to San Francisco the same year with her husband, Jamil (or James, as he is known here), his three brothers, and their families. The Abu-nie family settled in Noe Valley, where 30 members of the family still reside.

The mother of five children—four boys and a girl—E'nam Abu-nie was active in running the market. "She opened the store almost every day." said Omar, who characterized her aunt as very youthful, someone who was "always happy, always laughing, and was a very understanding person."

When not in the store, Abu-nie devoted

her energies to her children, and to cooking and shopping for food. "She loved to shop at Costco and the farmers market," said Omar. The dedicated mother saw to it that her five children all received a college education.

Her son, Amer Abu-nie, said. "Everyone who knew E'nam remembers her sweet and genuine smile. Although we can no longer physically see it, her beautiful smile exists in our hearts."

Towards the end of her life, E'nam Abu-nie expressed a desire to return to Jerusalem and finish out her days. "She missed her relatives in Jerusalem," Omar said, noting that her aunt hadn't seen some of her siblings in 30 years.

In the weeks after Abu-nie's death, Shufat Market at 3807 24th Street was filled with flowers and notes from loyal customers. The Abu-nie family issued a statement, thanking the market's many patrons for their condolences, love, and support. It continued with the words: "The kindness and love people have given has been a significant source of strength in dealing with the passing of a woman who embodies strength, courage, truth, and a passion for the well-being of humanity."

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In addition, we'd like to thank the following Noe Valley merchants that donated items to our silent auction:

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Holy Week and Easter Services 2009

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4:30 p.m.

8:00 a.m., 9:15 a.m., 11:00 a.m. (Spanish), 12:30 p.m., and 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday April 7 Tenebrae Service: Praying the Passion of Jesus

7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY April 8 RECONCILIATION SERVICE WITH PRIVATE CONFESSION

7:00 p.m. Spanish and English

Holy Thursday April 9 Mass of the Lord's Supper (Bilingual)

7:30 p.m.

Eucharistic Adoration until 10:00 p.m.

Good Friday April 10 Celebration of the Lord's Passion
Confession / Reconciliation 11:00 a m

Confession / Reconciliation, 11:00 a.m.- Noon Good Friday Spanish Service, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Confession / Reconciliation, 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Holy Saturday April 11 Confession / Reconciliation, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. Vigil of the Lord's Resurrection, 7:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday April 12 Celebration of the Lord's Resurrection Masses at 8:00 a.m., 9:15, 11:00 (Spanish)

Masses at 8:00 a.m., 9:15, 11:00 (Span 12:30 p.m., and 5:00 p.m.

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### Holy Week Services 2009

*Galm Sunday* April 5: The blessing of the palms (outside) before the 10:30 a.m. Mass, with procession into the church. (Masses: Saturday 5:00 p.m., Sunday 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.). Palms distributed at all Masses.

Toly Thursday April 9: Soup Supper 6:00 p.m. in the hall. Mass of the Lord's Supper 7:30 p.m. concludes with Eucharistic Procession and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 10:00 p.m.

Good Friday April 10: Good Friday service begins at Noon, which includes the Good Friday Liturgical celebration of the Lord's Passion.

Soly Saturday April 11: The Easter Vigil begins at 8:00 p.m. with the blessing of the Easter fire and lighting of Easter Candle. The Vigil Mass also includes the blessing of the Easter Water, the celebration of adult baptisms and the renewal of baptismal promises.

Easter Sunday April 12: Masses are: 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

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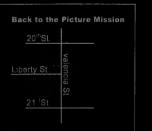
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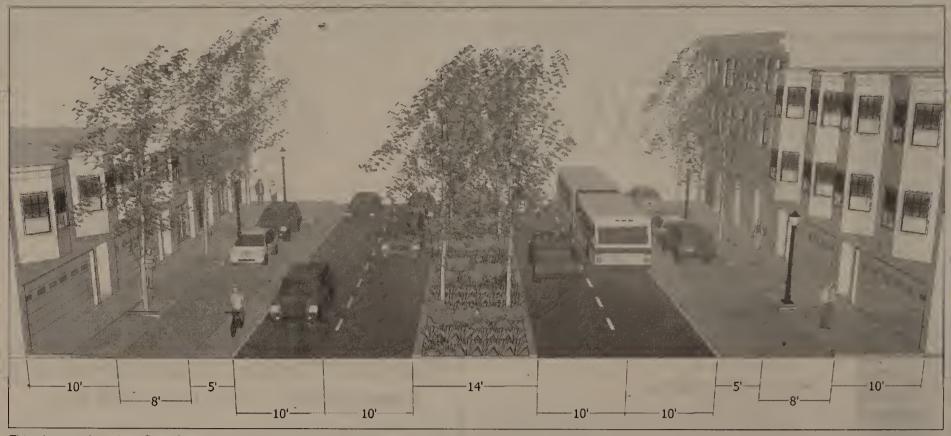
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This schematic shows how Cesar Chavez Street east of Guerrero Street would be reconfigured to calm traffic, accommodate bike riders, and create a more pleasant landscaped environment for residents, shoppers, and pedestrians. Graphic Caurtesy San Francisca Planning Department

### Some Drivers Less Than Thrilled with Cesar Chavez Redo

CONTINUED FROM PAGE I

make the busy street safer for motorists and pedestrians—and more hospitable to merchants, students, cyclists, and residents—the plan would also:

- Increase the number of left-turn "pocket" lanes in both directions.
- Prohibit left turns at intersections without the pocket lanes.
- Add 5-feet-wide bicycle lanes in both directions.
- Create a 14-foot, Dolores Street-style median strip that would allow for a double row of trees and green landscaping.
- · Widen sidewalks at certain intersections from the current 10 feet to 18 feet, to provide a larger space for pedestrians waiting to cross the street.

A grassroots coalition of neighbors, merchants, parents, and transportation advocates known as CC Puede ("Cesar Chavez, Yes We Can!") starting lobbying for the project about three years ago.

Following a yearlong series of community workshops, the ad hoc group endorsed a final draft measure in February. However, the proposal is just starting to attract widespread attention in Noe Val-

City planner Andres Power said construction could start sometime next year if the Board of Supervisors and the Metropolitan Transit Authority approved the plan. Both agencies must first hold pubne nearings, nowever.

### A Few Minutes' Delay

Power said the proposed changes could have either positive or negative impacts on local residents, depending on their sit-

"For people who walk down Cesar Chavez from Noe Valley or who ride bikes, it's going to be a significant improvement," he said, especially for those trekking to the Mission District for restaurants or shopping.

"Those people who drive" during commute rush hours—from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. and again from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.—will take slightly longer to reach their destination, Power said.

"But it's not a significant delay," he said. "We're shooting for a few minutes" delay-a couple of minutes."

There would be no discernible slowdown during the rest of the day, when "the street functions way below [traffic] capacity," he said.

According to Power, a reconfigured Cesar Chavez Street with dedicated leftturn lanes also would curtail a major source of driver frustration and accidents.

Power said drivers often find themselves stuck in inside lanes behind motorists waiting for oncoming traffic to clear so they can make a left turn.

Impatient drivers regularly "dart over to the next lane to avoid them, and that's a pretty dangerous thing to do," he said. "We'll no longer have that problem" with a left-turn pocket system.

Power noted that the combination of a wider median strip and eight extra feet of sidewalk at intersections would make it easier for school children, seniors, and other pedestrians to cross the broad street. They would only have to walk 60 feet in the crosswalk instead of the current 80 feet, and could stop on the median in the middle of the road if needed.

### **Tired of Speed Demons**

The chance to improve the Cesar Chavez commute corridor has galvanized backers such as Wilbur, who is a member of CC Puede, and Gillian Gillett, a cochair of the grassroots organization.

"I might have to spend an extra minute or two in traffic, but it's a really small tradeoff for all the improvements and beautifications on that street," Wilbur

Wilbur said he had used Cesar Chavez Street for more than 20 years, driving from his home near Castro and 22nd streets to the South Bay, where he works as a tax accountant.

'It just feels like Cesar Chavez isn't working," he said. "We sort of race in and out of lanes when someone is turning left [and race] each other from Dolores Street to the 101 on-ramp."

Wilbur, a cycling enthusiast, said adding bike lanes to a less frantic street would induce him to occasionally pedal to the 22nd Street Caltrain Station on Potrero Hill and commute by train.

"It frustrates me that on nice days I [can't] get on my bike and fly down Cesar Chavez and get on the train," he said, adding, "It's not safe."

### 'Kind of a No Man's Land'

Gillett lives on Guerrero Street just off Cesar Chavez Street. Hers is a chaotic intersection, where the six lanes of Cesar Chavez squeeze down to two lanes as the roadway enters Noe Valley. In addition, two lanes of Cesar Chavez traffic turn south on Guerrero Street heading toward Interstaté Highway 280.

"There's no there there in the way Cesar Chavez works now. It's a place that people actively avoid," says Gillett, a parent of two young children and a neighborhood resident for 12 years.

Gillett recently took a Voice reporter on a walk down Cesar Chavez from Guerrero to Mission Street—past the drab Salvation Army buildings, the used-car lots, and the "orphan" parcels of land.

"We don't get a lot of foot-related traffic," she said. "There are house break-ins and abandoned cars. Because people avoid the street, it makes it a kind of no man's land. That has a deleterious effect on Noe Valley.

"So making the traffic flow better and making it much easier to walk and cross will invite pedestrian activity, will invite stores to open up, and encourage development of housing and commerce," Gillett said. "The more you make it walkable, the more people will walk to public transit."

### More Backups Envisioned

A number of residents applauded the plan's good intentions, but were adamantly against any changes that would slow traffic along the artery.

"I wish it were a nicer experience to go down Cesar Chavez," said McGee, the chief operating officer for a health care consulting firm located near the San Francisco Airport.

"I'm totally for making it prettier, but I'm not for eliminating any lanes. I need to get to 101 to get to my job and a lot of people from Noe Valley are kind of in the same position."

Even with the current three lanes available, McGee said a bus picking up passengers or a stopped garbage truck could jam up traffic.

"So imagine a garbage truck with two lanes of traffic," she said. "It would make it a total snarl."

Hill Street resident Kathryn Bowsher said eliminating lanes might have the unintended consequence of creating long backups on Valencia, Guerrero, and other nearby streets, as drivers sought alterna-

"I'm just very, very leery," said Bowsher, a health care consultant who's lived in Noe Valley for a decade. "It's not that I don't buy into the goals. They're laudable. But I think there are a lot of things you can do to make Cesar Chavez more pleasant without taking out a lane of traffic."

She suggested that more efficient timing of traffic signals, crossing guards who can override traffic lights, and more leftturn pockets would improve traffic flow along the thoroughfare.

### **Traffic Studies Ahead**

In late March, city planners were working to refine the design and conduct a traffic engineering analysis. Power said the city hoped to complete construction documents by the end of the year. Interested persons can view the plans at www.sfgov .org/site/uploadedfiles/planning/City De sign\_Group/CDG\_mission\_cesarchavez. htm. To comment on the proposal, write cesarchavez@sfgov.org or contact Power at 415-558-6384. Information about CC Puede can be found at its website at www.ccpuede.org.





# worship with us Holy Week



We invite you to visit any of our Holy Week services.

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### Palm Sunday

9:30am Procession - Juri Commons 10:00am Service

### **Holy Week Meditations**

Monday, 6:30pm Tuesday, 6:30pm Wednesday, 6:30pm

### **Maundy Thursday**

Thursday, April 9, 6:30pm

### **Good Friday**

Friday, April 10, 7:30pm Meditation Service

### The Great Vigil of Easter

Saturday, April 11, 7:30pm

### **Easter Day**

Sunday, April 12 9am Family Service 11am Eucharist



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### Palm Sunday, April 5

10:30 a.m. at NVM

Joint Service with Dolores Street Baptist Church

### Easter Morning, April 12

Glorious Celebration at 10:30 a.m.

Children's Time, Choir, Flowers, and Alleluias

Community Easter Egg Hunt at Noon

Full Easter Brunch

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Jazz Vespers, April 19

Sunday at 5 p.m.

Celebration of Earth Day with the

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### **HOLY WEEK SERVICES**

Palm Sunday, April 5 at 11:00 AM

### **TRIDUUM - THE THREE DAYS**

Maundy Thursday, April 9 at 7:00 PM Good Friday, April 10 at 7:00 PM Easter Vigil, Saturday April 11 at Dusk Easter Sunday, April 12 at 11:00 AM

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### A Week of Literary Adventures at **Local Bookshops**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

282-7444 for more information.

Thursday, April 23, will be "Date Night at the Bookstore" at Cover to Cover, 1307 Castro Street. From 7 to 9 p.m., couples can enjoy complimentary wine and cheese and get 20 percent off their purchases. For details, call the shop at 415-282-8080.

Get your gloves on and dig in to a night with Alex Hatch at Phoenix Books & Records, 3850 24th Street, on Friday, April 24, from 7 to 9 p.m. Hatch pulled together photographs and maps for her book Cracks in the Asphalt: Community Gardens in San Francisco, and she is bringing friends and associates to talk about gardening in the city.

Manager James Koehneke says the reading celebrates Earth Day and the arrival of spring, and will appeal to a wide

"I'm not addicted to gardening myself, but as a book person, it's inspiring to look at the photography and the labor of love that this is," he says. The store's number is 415-821-3477.

Stop by the new kid on the block, Omnivore Books on Food, 3885 Cesar

Chavez Street, on Saturday, April 25, to live the flavor of Basque country. Gerald Hirigoyen, author of Pintxos: Small Plates in the Basque Tradition, will bring his appetizer-like dishes and talk about Basque food while signing cookbooks between 2 and 3 p.m.

Owner Celia Sack, who opened her bookstore in November, says she is thrilled to participate in Book Week.

"It makes the neighborhood so vital to have independent bookstores where the books are hand-chosen by people who can converse about them with their neighbors," she says. For more information about this event or five other author visits in April, call Omnivore at 415-282-4712 or see the Voice calendar, page 28.

Book Week organizers have always offered something for children, too. This year, the children's librarian of the newly renovated Noe Valley Library, Carol Small, has selected books for middle-school students to read aloud to younger children at the branch, 451 Jersey Street.

"Share a Story," from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m., will happen on Sunday, April 19, to highlight the library's new Sunday hours, says Kershner. If the weather is nice, readings will be held in the library's garden.

Families with younger children can drop in, and Kershner says everyone is invited to come in and share a story.

"Who knows?" she says. "You might get a babysitter out of the deal!"



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Whole Foods Gives Lifts to Potrero Hill: Whole Foods' community liaison Andrew Calabrese (right) and driver Steve Platt were careful observers last month as Danielle Svetcov and daughter Charlotte prepared to be "air-lifted" onto the grocer's free shuttle bus to Potrero Hill. The shuttle began March 3, picking up shoppers in front of the defunct Bell Market (3950 24th Street) and ferrying them to the Whole Foods store at 450 Rhode Island Street. The weekly service is set to continue until a new Whole Foods opens this fall at the Bell site. Calabrese says only a "handful" of shoppers took advantage of the free transportation during its first few weeks. "I think we topped out at a dozen one week," he said. But he expects ridership to increase, once word spreads. The bus operates on Tuesday mornings, and picks up passengers about every half hour, starting at 9:30 a.m. The last shuttle leaves Potrero Hill at 1 p.m. for the return trip to Noe Valley.

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Mr. Quayle, There's 35-Across in "Potato"

### **ACROSS**

- 1. Not dangerous 5. Elementary particle
- 9. New Testament king
- 14. Musical staff
- symbol 15. TV's warrior princess
- 16. Don't Cry for Me,
- Argentina musical 17. Pour gasoline on
- pinewood? 20. Twangy, as a voice
- 21. By means of
- 22. Hatchling's home
- 23. S.F. Chronicle columnist Herb
- 26. Swill 28. Mrs. Santa?
- \_ a Teenage
- 35. What's wrong at the end of 17-, 28-, 47-, and 62-Across
- 36. Flubbed
- 38. Word with mess or press
- 39. Kitchen sponge alternative
- 42. Anger 43. Largest keyboard
- 45. British rule in
- colonial India 46. Talking-pig movie
- 47. Despair, for a hare?
- 51. Suit to
- 52. Palm smartphone
- 53. Go across 56. Boxer known as
- "The Greatest"
- 58. Slack-jawed 62. Auto that makes you feel really
- good? 66. Say aloud
- 67. Actor McGregor
- 68. Oscar winner Japnings
- 69. Iraqi port

- - 70. Musty 71. Painter Magritte

- 1. Peruse quickly 2. He played Pierce on MASH
- 3. Certain agents, for
- 4. Obliterates
- 5. Logger's tool
- 6. \_\_\_ Aviv
- 7. Being broadcast
- 8. Like many guerrillas
- 9. Beavis and Butthead chuckle
- 10. Neither over nor
- under, on the links 11. Abundant
- 12. "Dock of the Bay"
- singer Redding
- 13. Old Dodge 18. \_\_\_ Bator, Mongolia

- 19. After-bath powder
- 24. \_\_\_ St. Vincent
- 25. Ultramodernists 27. Cassini of fashion
- 28. Water barrier
- 29. Dallas family name
- 30. Singer LaBelle
- 31. Indira Gandhi's
- 32. Dickens' .\_\_ Heep
- 33. \_\_\_-Croatian
- 37. Insightful
- 39. Habeas corpus, e.g. 40. Deeply engrossed
- 41. Close to closed
- 44. Boxer Holyfield
- 46. Web diarist
- 48. Approach
- 49. Became semirigid
- 50. Incline 53. Ticket part
- 54. Anti-fur org.

- 55. Aardvark fare · 57. Corn Belt state
- 59. Wile E. Coyote's supplier
- 60. Ache
- 61. Creator of Perry and
- 63. Chapter in history
- 64. Delivery vehicle 65. Publicity, slangily

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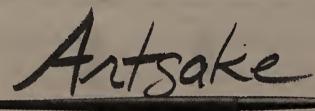
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### **Painters Show How Art Erases Pain**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Reese's brain ("It's what Nate in Six Feet *Under* died from," Reese explains), after headaches prompted her to visit St. Luke's Hospital. Unfortunately, Reese would soon get another chance to follow in Carlisle's footsteps.

"I feel like a copycat because he had the brain surgery scar, and, of course, 1 had to get my brain surgery scar. And then he got cancer, so I had to get cancer." Reese says and starts to laugh in a jovial voice possessing a vibrant quality not unlike that found in the day-glow acrylics she uses in her paintings.

The laughter that frequently erupts from Reese as she explains the trials of the last several years, during Carlisle's struggle against lung-to-brain cancer and her own with endometrial cancer, might at first seem out of place. After all, there were the many months Carlisle was so weak that he fell down the stairs and could hardly eat. And there were the three months of chemo and 28 radiation sessions last year that left Reese unable to collect her mail, too ill to do much more than make the journey to and from the hospital each day.

But as they prepare for their art show, "Nanci Reese + Two," debuting at Gallery Sanchez on April 12, Reese and Carlisle have plenty of reasons to cast out gloom. In many ways, both cancer and the art that

followed have changed their lives.

"He was supposed to be dead three years ago," says Reese, who has a habit of answering for Carlisle and happily admits to nagging him like a "housewife," despite their just-friends relationship.

But Carlisle did not die. Now in remission, he knows there is a chance his cancer will return one day. But he's not waiting around for it.

"I don't feel like there's five years to waste. Time has to be used," Carlisle says. And using it he is.

### **Problems Fade Away**

An artist since childhood who landed in San Francisco during the mid-1960s and lived for 40 years on Elizabeth Street before relocating to the Western Addition, Carlisle began taking art and writing workshops through the Art for Recovery program that's part of Mt. Zion's UCSF Medical Center.

"I had a friend who had brain cancer, and he just stayed in bed and died. I was thinking, I'm not going to stay in bed," Carlisle says, recalling the early days of his treatment.

Instead of succumbing to his illness, Carlisle threw himself deeper into his paintings. The works are largely abstract and full of wild strokes and frenzied marks of color.

"When I'm painting, problems go away. I just don't think about them, and that's a good thing," he says.

Never a driver, he made it a point to walk as often as possible. He underwent acupuncture treatments. He joined the



Paintings by Greg Carlisle, such as this untitled piece, will be on display April 12 through May 26 as part of "Nanci Reese + Two" at Gallery Sanchez within the Noe Valley Ministry.

San Francisco Botanical Gardens at Strybing Arboretum. He took the bus on outings whenever he was up for it.

As he recovered, Carlisle noticed changes, some plainly obvious and others much less concrete. His hair had always been curly. After chemo, it grew back straight ("A very expensive hairdo," Reese quips). As for his paintings, they became more abstract. Now they feature more organic forms, often those that suggest flowers and plants.

"The actual forms have changed. There's more chaos. I want to show the implicit order in the chaos," he says.

And then there are other changes that are much more subtle.

"There's something in my consciousness that's changed ever since I had cancer. It's hard to explain, but that's the challenge of it .... It's like a whole new investment in communication," Carlisle says.

### **Better Composition**

Like so many other times in her life, Reese, who says doctors have told her she faces less than a one percent chance of her cancer returning, finds herself in the midst of a similar path.

"Right after radiation, I started painting like a maniac," says the artist, who often puts brush to canvas in her studio apartment's bathroom because she prefers its lighting.

Though she continues to paint figurative subjects in lively colors and simple childlike forms, Reese notes significant changes in the work she's done since her cancer diagnosis.

"There was a substantial difference, a step up, better composition," she explains. She's not the only one who's noticed a

change in her work,

"Ever since her recovery, I think her paintings are different, and I think they're better than what she was doing before," says Arnold Benetti, a friend of Reese's and a photographer who will be showing digital prints of public art and sculptural works as the third artist participating in Reese's show,

Along with improvement in her own art, Reese can point to numerous examples of the ways in which cancer yielded positive outcomes.

"When [Greg] got sick, I had a lot of resentment. And it just got wiped out," Reese says of the way negative feelings held over from their breakup disappeared during Carlisle's illness.

Cancer also allowed her the chance to reconnect with old friends and discover the people in her life who cared enough to stay with her during her\_hardest times, bring her food, and drive her to and from her medical appointments.

### **A Lasting Legacy**

Today, Greg, who held varied jobs at factories and with the U.S. Postal Service before retirement, continues to pursue art and writing through the Art and Recovery Program.

Nancy, who has also gotten involved in the program, is an active member of the Noe Valley Ministry, holds a part-time bookkeeping job, and is looking forward to the many new art projects she has in mind, including one that will incorporate medical objects from her treatment into a large sculpture.

And just as art has been a beloved pursuit, a creative outlet, and a distraction from illness, it is also a comfort in the face of life that both Reese and Carlisle know can all too easily come to an end.

"I feel like, if I were to die tomorrow-God forbid-I have tons of art," says

"Nanci Reese + Two" runs April 12 through May 26 at Gallery Sanchez, 1021 Sanchez Street (upstairs). Show hours are Tuesday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. An artists' reception takes place on Saturday, April 18, from 2 to 4 p.m. For more information, contact the gallery at 415-282-7798.





Artist Nanci Reese says she started painting "like a maniac" after radiation therapy for endometrial cancer last year. Many of the colorful dreamlike works she produced will be exhibited this month at the Noe Valley Ministry. Phota by Pamela Gerard

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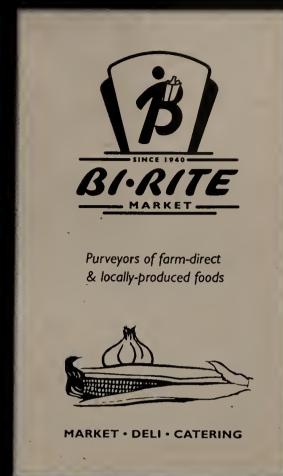
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### **Pollen Princesses Produce Pots of Noe Valley Honey**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

we thought it was kind of cute."

Cooper confesses that bees and their behavior have always fascinated him. "They are so specialized, and some of the things they accomplish just amaze methe way they build their comb, the sheer effort it takes them to create the honey and the quantities they create, the way they treat their hive, [and] the way they swarm to reproduce."

### Nice Climate for Bees

In 2006, Cooper was doing research into the growing phenomenon of bee colony collapse and discovered the world of amateur beekeeping. San Francisco, with its mild climate and abundant plant life, is "a friendly place to keep a hive," he says.

With Marcum's blessing, Cooper sent away for a beekeeping kit. He ordered the bees online and they arrived in the mail, the queen encased in a special cage of sugar paste, which Cooper describes as like "dry icing."

"You simply dump the bees into a new hive, put the queen-still in her cage-in the middle of them all, and wait," he says.

The bees eat the sugar paste, which releases the queen from the cage in two to three days. By that time, the queen's new subjects have had a chance to grow accustomed to her scent. The bees start building comb and gathering nectar and pollen, the queen starts laying eggs, and—ta-da!—in about a month you have an established bee colony.

### 'Overall, Pretty Safe'

The Pollen Princesses and Her Royal Highness started out at Cooper and Marcum's apartment near Alvarado School, but the bees now reside in a friend's back yard at 21st and Chattanooga streets. "Our friend Tony tells us he's always wanted bees but doesn't want to care for them, so it works out for us," says Marcum.

The couple, who have lived in Noe Valley since 2002, visit the bees at least once a month, and more often as the weather warms up. As members of the San Francisco Beekeepers Association, which supports apiary hobbyists, they can use the association's equipment to extract the hive's honey surplus. Over last summer, they collected at least 90 pounds.

In the three years they've been keeping bees, Cooper says he's been stung about six times, and Marcum "a few more times than that. It happens when we don't have our veils on snugly enough or a bee crawls up a pants leg. But overall, it's pretty safe."

### Jars of Honey and Lip Balm

Last fall, Marcum and Cooper opened a virtual Pollen Princesses shop on Etsy.com, a website that allows people to buy and sell handmade items online. They sell their Noe Valley Honey in 5-, 11-, and 18-ounce jars, which range in price from \$6.49 to \$19.99 (shipping is



When not tasting at home on 23rd Street, beekeepers Deno Marcum and Michael Cooper (right) sell their Noe Valley Honey through Etsy.com. Photos by Pomelo Gerard

Cooper says his favorite batch is from August. "It's quite floral and a bit fruity very sweet."

Right now, they're also selling a Pollen Princesses citrus-hemp beeswax lip balm (\$5.49), handmade by Marcum. He and Cooper gather the wax from the hive's honeycombs. "Most of the comb is returned to the hive, but the layer of wax that caps the honey is cut off, and we melt that down and strain it," Cooper explains. Then Marcum adds the hemp oil, almond oil, and some lemon oil for scent.

"I've also made a nice ointment with another product of the hive, propolis, a.k.a. 'bee glue,'" adds Marcum. Bees gather this resinous substance from tree buds and use it to seal and varnish the honeycombs. "Homeopaths may be familiar with the anti-bacterial and other healing qualities of propolis. It is, in fact, the immune system for the hive."

Bi-Rite Market, on 18th Street in the Mission, has picked up some jars of Noe Valley Honey to sell in its store, and Cooper and Marcum are hopeful that Bi-Rite Creamery will use some of it for its honey-lavender ice cream this summer.

### **Spring Is a Busy Time**

In the meantime, the princesses should be heading into an active spring after huddling up over the winter months. April ushers in a new brood of field bees, adding as many as 1,200 each day from the queen's eggs. The hive workers are busy caring for the larvae and building comb to store supplies, and field workers are out and about, feeding on flowers.

"Fruit trees have been blooming for a while now." Cooper says. "But some of the later-blooming trees like cherries, pears, and apples are providing nectar, as are

rosemary, lavender, California lilac, Prideof-Madeira, and many other flowers."

"Add to that list magnolia, wild mustard, wild radish, escallonia, and the last of the acacia," says Marcum. "This is really the beginning of the bees' year. In the winter, the hive is really only a skeleton crew. Once the sun begins to climb in spring; the hive grows quickly and the princesses begin storing honey. This time of year, the queen is beginning to lay lots of eggs, and the newly hatched bees take turns building wax comb, cleaning, and then foraging for nectar."

### Flight of the Honeybees

Bees can have a range of three miles, which means the princesses occasionally might journey out of their Noe Valley kingdom to the realms of Bernal Heights, Glen Park, and even Cole Valley. They also wander in the neighboring Castro and Mission.

"Any time I see a honeybee within a mile of our hive, I wonder if it's one of our princesses," Marcum says. He notes that the current queen is of the Carniolan variety. "These are a little dark in color and considered to be very gentle."

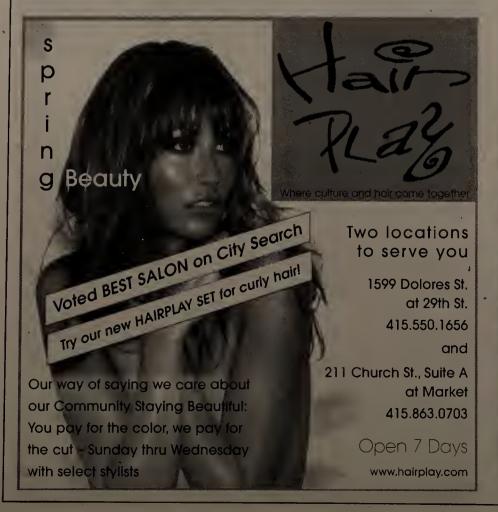
To follow the further adventures of her Pollen Princesses, check out Cooper and Marcum's blog at http://pollenprincesses .blogspot.com/ or search "Noe Valley Honey" at www.etsy.com.

The beekeepers say if Voice readers decide to order Noe Valley Honey online, they should leave a message in their order and wait for Pollen Princesses to bill them, rather than paying when they place the order.

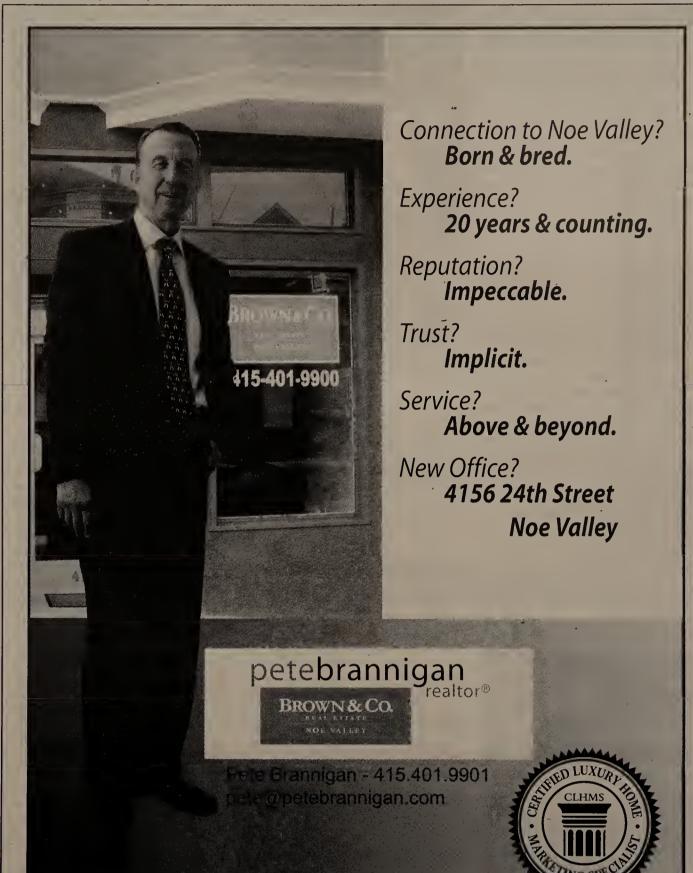
"We can arrange with them to pick up their order from us and pay just the cost of the honey without shipping charges," Cooper says. How sweet is that?

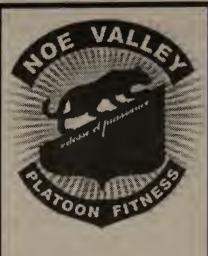


Deno Marcum and Michael Cooper wear protective gear when they visit their gentle, but occasionally nervous bees residing in a friend's back yard at 21st and Chattanooga streets.









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### The Cost of Living in Noe

### The Promise of Spring

By Corrie M. Anders .

Noe Valley homebuyers paid an average of \$1.5 million for a detached house in February, slightly less than the typical cost for a neighborhood property one year ago.

Six homes closed escrow in February, compared with four in January and eight sales a year earlier, according to monthly data supplied to the Voice by Zephyr Real Estate.

The single-digit sales reflected the weak pulse of the San Francisco housing market, which has been virtually holding its breath since September.

Still, February was "a bit of an improvement" over January, and "we're getting the feeling that spring will certainly be better than our winter was," said Randall Kostick, Zephyr's general sales manager.

On average, sellers of single-family

homes in February received 99 percent of their asking price, and transactions closed escrow in 50 days—a month faster than the 83 days the deals took in December.

For the first time since October, a Noe Valley home sold for more than \$2 million—and there were two such sales.

Buyers paid \$2,579,000 for a threebedroom, three-bath house in the 4300 block of 25th Street, between Diamond and Douglass streets. The home, which has two-car parking, sold at its asking price in 15 days.

The second most expensive dwelling, a four-bedroom, 31/2-bath manor, sold for \$2.1 million. The 3,400-square-foot property, which closed escrow in 47 days, is located in the 500 block of Clipper Street, between Diamond and Douglass streets.

Condominium sales also were up in February. Six units changed hands, compared with two sales in January and four one year earlier. Condo buyers paid an average \$835,000 in February, down from about \$883,000 a year ago.

The most expensive condo sold during the month was a three-bedroom, 31/2-bath unit in the 4200 block of 25th Street, between Castro and Diamond streets. The 2,600-square-foot home sold for \$1,575,000.

Á	<b>Snapshot</b>	of Noe	Valley Rents**	
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Unit	No. in Sample	Range March 2009	Average March 2009	Average Feb. 2009	Average March 2008
Studio	14	\$1,000 - \$1,800 °	\$1,347 /mo.	\$1,592 / mo.	\$1,555 / mo.
1-bdrm	36	\$1,425 - \$3,200	\$1,895 / mo.	\$1,965 / mo.	\$1,867 / m <b>o</b> .
2-bdrm	43	\$1,899 - \$4,450	\$2,789 / mo.	\$3,073 / mo.	\$3,103 / mo.
3-bdrm	19	\$2,700 - \$7,800	\$3,917 / mo.	\$3,738 / mo.	\$4,325 / mo.
4+-bdrm	7	\$3,500 - \$8,700	\$5,628 / mo.	\$6,094 / mo.	\$5,537 / mo.

\*\* Survey based on a sample of 119 Noe Valley listings appearing on Craigslist from Feb. 25 to March 12, 2009.

### Noe Valley Home Sales\* High Price (\$) % of List Price Single-family homes 99% \$770,000 \$2,579,000 \$1,494,833 \$945,000 \$1,500,000 \$1,181,875 95% \$1,530,063 107% \$850,000 \$2,450,000

\$835,250

\$882,750

\$1,106,250

Feb. 2008 2- to 4-unit buildings

Total Sales

Feb. 2009

Jan. 2009

Feb. 2008

Feb. 2009

Jan. 2009

Condominiums

Feb. 2009	1	\$1,500,000\$	1,500,000 \$1,5	500,000 1	100%	
Jan. 2009	5	\$920,000	\$1,312,000	\$1,108,800	85	90%
Feb. 2008	1	\$1,859,000	\$1,859,000	\$1,859,000	34	101%
5+-unit build	ings					
Eab 2000	0					

\$1,262,500

\$599,000 \$1,575,000

\$609,000 \$1,200,000

\$950,000

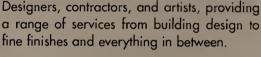
Estate (www.zephyrsf.com) for supplying the sales data.

Jan. 2009	0	_	_	•	- $-$	_
Feb. 2008	1	\$1,825,000	\$1,825,000	\$1,825,0	000 95	94%
		Valley home sale	*	_		y is defined as the s Zephyr Real

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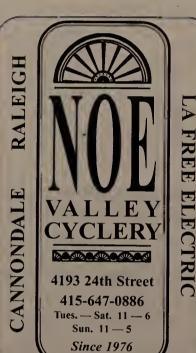
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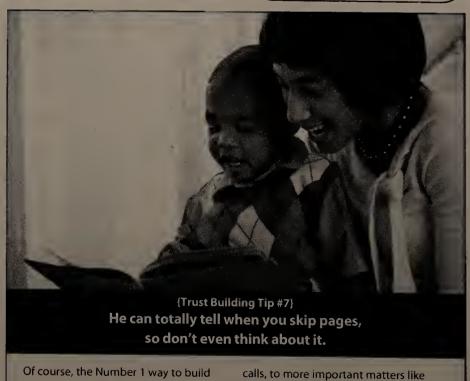
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# POLICE BEAT

The Noe Valley Voice thanks Mission Police Captain Stephen Tacchini and Ingleside Police Captain Denis O'Leary for providing incident reports for this month's Police Beat. Though they may differ slightly in style, the two reports both cover the period from Feb. 16 to March 15, 2009.

The Noe Valley/Mission Crime Log is a tally of incidents occurring in the northern half of Noe Valley—from 21st Street to Cesar Chavez Street and from Grand View to Guerrero Street. The Upper Noe Valley Crime Log reports incidents in the southern half, roughly bordered by Cesar Chavez, Guerrero, 30th Street, and Diamond Heights Bouleyard.

For details about these or other incidents, contact the police captains directly, or attend community meetings held monthly in each police district (see box below).

### NOE VALLEY/MISSION CRIME LOG

Mission Police Capt. Stephen Tacchini Feb. 16 to March 15, 2009

Feb. 20, 7:07 a.m., 900 block of Church: Burglary; apartment house. Victim left their home locked and secured. Upon their return they found a rear window opened and personal items taken. No suspects observed.

Feb. 27, 8 a.m., 1200 block of Church: Residential burglary. Victim left their home locked and secured. Upon return they found numerous electronic devices had been taken and no forced entry. No suspects observed.

Feb. 27, 6 p.m., 200 block of Jersey:

Residential burglary. Victim left their home locked and secured. Upon return they found a garage opened and a bicycle taken. No suspects observed.

March 5, 9 a.m., 400 block of Grand View: Burglary; apartment house. Victim left their home locked and secured. Upon return they found numerous electronic devices and jewelry were taken. No suspects observed.

March 6, 3 a.m., 400 block of Grand View: Burglary, apartment house. Victim invited unknown persons to their apartment. When victim asked suspects to leave, suspects suspiciously fled, taking victim's keys. Victim pursued suspects with responding officers, to no avail.

March 6, 5 p.m., 500 block of Hill: Theft from locked vehicle. Victim parked their vehicle, locking the doors and windows. Upon their return, they found the vehicle's front passenger window shattered and personal items taken. No suspects were observed.

March 8, 5 a.m., 26th & Noe: Robbery, street. Victim was walking listening to an iPod when two suspects knocked the victim to the ground and removed the iPod and several items in his pockets. Victim sustained no injuries.

March 11, 7:30 a.m., 1200 block of Church: Residential burglary. Victim left their home locked and secured. Upon return they found several electronic devices had been taken and no forced entry. No suspects observed.

### UPPER NOE VALLEY CRIME LOG

Ingleside Police Capt. Denis O'Leary Feb. 16 to March 15, 2009

Feb. 17, 3:35 p.m., Dolores & 30th: Traffic collision. Two cars, one party injured.

Feb. 17, noon, first block of Valley: 1999 Honda Accord reported stolen.

Feb. 18, 9:40 a.m., 29th & Castro: Auto

burglary. Occurred between Feb: 16 &

Feb. 21, 6:40 a.m., 1600 block of Sanchez St.: Vehicle strip. Wheel and tire taken

Feb. 21, 1:50 a.m., Dolores & 30th: Traffic collision; hit-and-run (no in-iuries)

Feb. 21, 10:30 a.m., 400 block of 28th: Stolen vehicle; 2002 Honda CRV.

Feb. 22, 9 p.m., 500 block of Valley: Brandishing a knife. Suspect named.

Feb. 28, 6 p.m., 29th & Castro: Traffic collision; hit-and-run (no injuries). Suspect vehicle's rear bumper left at scene.

March 1, 1 p.m., 200 block of 29th: Theft from building. Bicycle taken from open garage. Occurred between Feb. 24 and 26.

March 1, 8:45 p.m., 200 block of Day: Vandalism to parked car; broken window. Teens seen near car with BB gun.

March 1, 9 p.m., Cesar Chavez & Sanchez: Auto burglary. Cell phone, MP3 player, checkbook, and cash taken. Victim found her phone listed for sale on the Internet.

March 9, 4:20 p.m., Church & 30th: Found person; juvenile.

March 9, 7:30 p.m., 400 block of 30th: Burglary. Occurred between March 8 and 9. Unlawful entry to garage. Bicycle and diaper bag taken.

March 13, 1:10 a.m., 400 block of 27th: Vandalism to building; broken window. Suspect detained.

March 14, 1:30 a.m., 200 block of 29th: Vandalism to building; broken window and graffiti.

### Tale of Two Police Districts

Noe Valley is split between two San Francisco police jurisdictions: Mission Police District and Ingleside Police District. With Cesar Chavez Street as the dividing line, Mission police monitor the northern half of the neighborhood, while Ingleside police watch out for the southern half.

Both districts invite local residents to attend police-community meetings, held monthly. Mission Police District holds meetings on the last Tuesday of the month, 6 p.m., at Mission Station, 630 Valencia Street near 17th Street. Ingleside's community meetings take place on the third Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m., at Ingleside Police Station, 1 Sgt. John V. Young Lane.

To contact Mission Station, call 558-5400. You also may call Mission Station Capt. Stephen Tacchini at 558-5455 or e-mail him at Stephen Tacchini@sfgov.org. Mission's tip line for anonymous reporting is 552-4558. To contact Ingleside, call 404-4000, or e-mail Capt. Denis O'Leary at Denis O'Leary@sfgov.org. The Ingleside tip line is 587-8984.

For online reporting, go to www.sfgov.org/police. To report a crime in progress, call 911. Note that when calling 911 on a cellular phone near a highway, the call is connected to the California Highway Patrol (CHP) dispatch center. In other areas in San Francisco, the call will connect directly to San Francisco dispatch. You can also dial S.F. dispatch directly: 415-553-8090.

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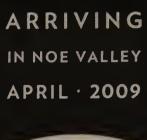
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### SHORT TAKES

### Bunnies Boost Flowers at Easter Egg Hunt

Hop on over to Douglass Playground on Saturday, April 11, from 10 a.m. to noon for the second annual Easter Egg Hunt, hosted by a group of local merchants as a benefit for the Noe Valley Association.

The success of last year's hunt at Noe Courts—about 500 people showed up—has necessitated some changes this year, says organizer B.J. Droubi of Droubi Team/Coldwell Banker Real Estate.

"All the eggs were found in about 30 minutes," she laughs. Some volunteers made repeated runs to Walgreens to satisfy the seekers, while others contended with a line for chocolate bunnies that wrapped around the block. "I said, 'I guess this *is* needed in the neighborhood!"

This year, Droubi decided to change the venue to dog-free Douglass Playground at 26th and Douglass. Then she rounded up more volunteers. She also stocked up on jellybean-filled plastic eggs to be hidden in the park, and is asking children to stop hunting after they've found three eggs. (Good luck!) A free chocolate bunny will go to each child who presents three found eggs.

The fun won't end with the hunt, though. Dozens of hard-boiled eggs will be ready for coloring, and Terra Mia has donated ceramic eggs that can be fired in the kiln after children decorate them. Fima Photography will have a professional on hand for photos, an Easter bunny will be around for color, and the two-woman band the Shake Sugarees will play their string-band music.

Also this year, the organizers will sell donated coffee, pastries, and cupcakes as well as lottery tickets for giant chocolate bunnies. Droubi says they hope to raise money to offset the \$12,000 annual cost of maintaining the colorful flower planters hanging from light poles along 24th and Castro streets.

"We're asking for a dollar here and a dollar there, hoping to get some money for that purpose," Droubi says. "People should come with their pockets full of dollars."

In addition to those named above, sponsors include Janet Moyer Landscaping, Brown & Co., Small Frys, Just for Fun, Alexanderson Properties, Noe Valley Bakery, Bernie's Coffee, Noe Valley Law Office, and Noe Valley Tuttimelon.

If you'd like to help the bunnies, call Droubi at 920-8232.

—Heather World

### City College Off to Everett

City College of San Francisco will start registering students in April for summer session at nine of its satellites in the city, including the Castro Campus soon departing James Lick Middle School in Noe Valley.

Online registration begins April 20 for continuing City College students. They can register at www.ccsf.edu. (New students should go to www.ccsf.edu and click "admissions" to complete an online application. Summer registration for those students will start May 18. They will receive a registration appointment based on the order in which they applied.)

Summer classes at the Castro Campus, which begin June 15, will be held at Everett Middle School at 450 Church Street near 17th Street. City College is moving from James Lick because the building at Noe and 25th streets fails to meet current accessibility standards.



Attendance at last year's Easter Egg Hunt in Noe Courts was so high that the colored eggs became group masterpieces. This year, the event will take place April II at Douglass Playground, and the Easter Bunny promises a basket full of surprises.

Photo by Pomela Gerord

The Castro Campus will offer 18 classes at Everett this summer, according to Dean Bruce Smith. They include foreign language courses in Spanish, French, Italian, and German, and classes in modern art history, LGBT cinema, and the history of jazz.

Smith says City College will keep the Castro Campus at the Everett site next fall. All of the courses and services previously available at James Lick will be available at Everett, which he notes has free parking and is close to public transit.

Students can also sign up for classes at other sites, including the year-and-a-half-old Mission Campus located at 1125 Valencia Street.

A complete schedule of summer courses is available at www.ccsf.edu. For questions about the Castro Campus call 415-239-3127 during the day or 415-550-4501 in the evenings.

—Corrie M. Anders

### High Tea for Dogs

On April 24, one of the neighborhood's most prim and proper establishments will be going to the dogs. Best known around the neighborhood for its monthly mobile-adoption events outside Zephyr Real Estate on 24th Street, Rocket Dog Rescue will be holding an evening benefit at Lovejoy's Tea Room on the fourth Friday of this month to raise funds for its ongoing efforts to foster homeless dogs and place them in permanent, caring homes.

After rebounding from a devastating fire that destroyed much of founder and animal welfare advocate Pali Boucher's home in late 2007, the organization is preparing to open a permanent headquarters in the Outer Sunset neighborhood in a space once home, appropriately enough, to one of the original Doggie Diner locations. With an opening tentatively scheduled for May, the facility is intended to serve as an office and retail shop for the non-profit, as well as a place to meet and adopt available dogs.

"We're going to be using the funds, of course, to save dogs, but a portion of [the money raised during the event] is also going to necessary renovations of the office," explains Rocket Dog Rescue volunteer coordinator Tammy Hilbrich.

The fundraiser will take place at Lovejoy's (1351 Church Street) from 6 to 8:30 p.m., and will feature a lavish dinner and dessert inspired by traditional High Tea; a silent auction; and tarot card and palm readings. Tickets are \$150 each, \$250 for two, \$450 for a table of four, and \$600 for a table of six.

Tickets are available for purchase online at www.rocketdogrescue.org or via phone by contacting Geri Hunter at 415-883-7359. Space for the event is limited, and those interested in attending are encouraged to purchase tickets by April 15. —Lorraine Sanders

### Earth Needs You on April 18

Want to honor Earth Day in a local way? Volunteer to spiff up the San Francisco School of the Arts campus on Saturday, April 18, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The city's Department of Public Works will be on hand to help you tame weeds, erase graffiti, pick up trash, and do small repairs.

The high school is located at 555 Portola Drive at O'Shaughnessy Blvd., about five minutes by bus or 30 minutes by foot up the hill from Noe Valley. For more information, call 415-641-2600 or e-mail volunteer@sfdpw.org.

Meanwhile, San Francisco's Clean City Coalition will be bringing "Gigantic 3" debris boxes to St. John's School at 925 Chenery Street on that same Saturday, April 18, 8 a.m. to noon, to allow residents of District 8 to drop off their bulky throwaway items or recyclables. Items accepted include yard trimmings, wood planks, scrap metal, old VCRs, comput-

ers, mattresses, stoves and refrigerators, used motor oil, and fluorescent bulbs and tubes. But residents must be sure to make an appointment: call Sunset Scavenger at 330-1300 by April 16. For information, go to www.sfcleancity.com.

—Heather World

### Get Ready to Rummage

Bargain hunters will be lining up outside 625 Douglass Street at 9 a.m. on April 18 and 19. That's when Alvarado Elementary School opens the gates to its annual Rummage Sale.

"There are always incredible finds," says organizer Christina James, mother of an Alvarado fourth-grader. The first year she attended. James says, she bought a book by popular children's author Mercer Mayer. "I opened it a few months later and saw it was signed."

Another time, she saw a doll, valued at \$1,000 on eBay, go for \$25 at the sale.

Donors to the event are asked to drop by gently used goods on Saturday, April 11, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

By the following Saturday, the motor skills room at the school will be transformed to a children's store stocked with books, toys, and cars. Clothes, dishes, and other household items will fill the breezeway and school stage. Furniture will be set outside to lure the casual passerby. There will also be a boutique section for valuable items, like gold and antique jewelry, paintings, and photographs.

"It's usually pretty busy at the beginning of the day," says James. "We have regulars who run in."

The free Saturday sale runs all day, till 3 p.m. But the prices—and the hours—are different on Sunday.

April 19 is bargain day, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For a \$10 fee, buyers can walk in and take out as many loads as they can carry. In the second hour, the price drops lower. "You can take your car, come home, and come back," James says.

She notes that charities often come to the sale, as do folks with families back in Latin America or Eastern Europe. In addition, garage-sale entrepreneurs take carloads to re-sell at their own sales.

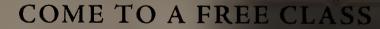
James promises to give back the entrance fee to anyone who finds nothing to buy.

"There's always amazing stuff leftover on Sunday," she says.

Alvarado asks donors to leave at home their computers, televisions, mattresses, metal furniture, and stuffed animals. Additionally, items that change frequently for safety reasons, like car seats, are not accepted.

Last year, the rummage sale netted the PTA about \$3,600. The funds are used for extracurricular programs at Alvarado. For information call the school at 415-695-5695.

—Heather World



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\$995,000



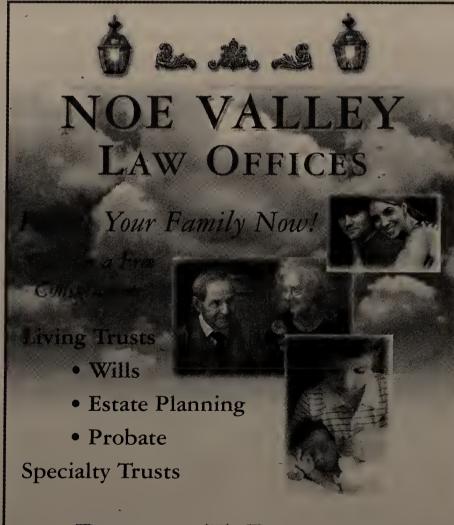
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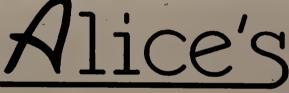
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# SHORT TAKES

### Glen Park Has Bounce

Sleepy Glen Park will shake off the fog on Sunday, April 26, to celebrate the 11th annual Glen Park Festival from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Having missed last year, organizers are coming back with a bang this year, adding a special children's area and a bouncy castle to draw in the kids.

Small by San Francisco standards, Glen Park's version of a street fair distinguishes itself by hosting booths for local elementary and preschools along with the traditional variety of arts and food. In the past, the schools have run crafts for children to entertain the kids while parents ask questions. As always, a San Francisco Fire Department fire truck will be on hand for children to explore.

The booths will run along Diamond Street between Chenery and Bosworth streets, and a band area in the center will feature the Jeffrey Gaeto Jazz Quartet in the morning and the Latin sounds of Mestizo from 2:30 on. Dan Lopez of Dejavu Productions will be the Master of Cere-

Proceeds from a raffle for prizes donated by neighborhood and Noe Valley merchants will go to the Friends of the Library (Glen Park Branch). Other funds will be made into grants for children's programs and schools in the Glen Park

For more information, call 415-835-2112 or visit www.glenparkfestival.com. --Heather World

### 88-Key Marathon

Watch the fingers fly nonstop at the Community Music Center's sixth annual Keyboard Marathon Sunday, April 26, at 3 p.m.

This year's fingerfest is titled "Dances." Thirteen pianists will showcase solo and four-hand works by a range of composers, including Antonin Dvorak, Ignacy Paderewski, and Johannes Brahms.

Many dances will include the rhythms of Slavic countries, Spain, and Argentina, mixing mazurka with flamenco for a lively afternoon. A new piece by faculty member Erik Walker will also be played. Two harpsichordists will set the stage with dance suites by French Baroque composer François Couperin and late Renaissance composer Girolamo Fres-

The 88-year-old Community Music Center began keyboard marathons six years ago when piano teacher Juliet Mc-Comas suggested the school's keyboard teachers collaborate on a large-scale production to educate students and entertain

CMC's Sonia Caltvedt says previous marathons have run up to three hours.

"We've had a full house of about 150 people with some standing in the back," she says. "I think they've enjoyed the variety of players and styles."

Tickets cost \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and seniors. The Community Music Center is located at 544 Capp Street near 21st Street. For more information, call 415-647-6015 or visit www.sfcmc.org.

-Heather World

### Indulgent Sisters Reveal Habits

The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, in all their campy splendor, will show off three decades of gay pride at an exhibit this month at the San Francisco Library.

The group's display of posters, photographs, costumes, and other artifacts will be on view at the James C. Hormel Gay & Lesbian Center within the library's Main Branch.

The exhibit recalls the birth of the Sisters on April 17, 1979, when three gay men ventured out in the Castro in habits "loaned" by retired nuns, just to cause a stir on a moonlit night.

Instead, the library notes, the trio "quite by accident...discovered a new form of political and social activism and community service that lives on 30 years later."

Exhibit visitors will be able to see the habit worn by founding member Sister Soami (formerly Sister Missionary Position), as well as the promotional relics of the Sisters' often scandalous but still philanthropic events, such as themed bingo nights and the annual Easter celebration at Dolores Park.

"We, the Sisters, hope that the general public will come to understand our purpose as community builders, activists, and fundraisers for those in need," says Sister Mary Ly Onward. "Above all, we hope the exhibition helps everyone to see us as the merrymakers and guilt dissipaters we are."

The exhibit, which opened March 20, runs through May 7. The library is located at 100 Larkin Street.

—Corrie M. Anders

### Picture Books for the Fair

First Book San Francisco, a consortium of nonprofits bringing books to under-served families in the Bay Area, is hosting a May book drive and fundraiser in Noe Valley. Throughout the month, you can drop new or used books, in good condition, in collection bags at various locations, including the Noe Valley Ministry, Starbucks, and Wells Fargo Bank. Wells Fargo will also accept monetary donations.

In addition, bargain hunters attending the 34th annual Fair Oaks Street Fair on Saturday, May 9, can bring books, cash, or checks to the First Book booth in the 200 block of Fair Oaks Street the day of the event. The fair runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Fair Oaks between 21st and 26th streets.

"Hint—this is the day before Mother's

### Hungry Budget Eyes Senior Lunches

A social service program that provides local seniors with nutritious weekday lunches is on the verge of closure—again.

Project Open Hand says budgetary restrictions may force it to stop providing meals at the Noe Valley Ministry and at four other locations in the city.

The Noe Valley Senior Center dining room currently serves up to 20 seniors a day, according to director Wendy Cohen. Seniors must be at least 60 years old to receive the hot meals, which are trucked in from a Project Open Hand central

Because of its consistently small number of participants, the meals program at the Ministry is often targeted for elimination during tight budgets. Seniors attending the program, which offers social activities in addition to lunch, will likely be directed to larger programs at other Project Open Hand locations.

"They've been on the chopping block for years, but we've been able to save them," said Darin Raffaelli, senior sites manager for Project Open Hand.

Whether the local program survives the budget axe for the next fiscal year won't be known for a few months. An increase in attendance, or a change in funding sources, might affect the status come July 1.

Until then, seniors can still get meals for a \$2 donation at 1021 Sanchez Street. Meals are served 12:30 to 1 p.m., but the center's doors open around noon. (To reserve a lunch, call 415-648-1030 the day before.)

Project Open Hand's senior lunch program is funded by San Francisco's Aging and Adult Services Commission, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, senior contributions, and Project Open Hand. For information, call 415-447-2300 or visit www.openhand.org.

—Corrie M. Anders

Day," notes Carla Hatley, a volunteer for First Book. "Why not honor your mom this Mother's Day by providing books to low-income children?" For a \$20 donation, First Book will provide Mother's Day cards notifying the recipient of a donation made in her honor.

First Book San Francisco is part of a national organization that provides books to children at preschools, after-school programs, mentoring and tutoring programs, shelters, and daycare centers. Board President Jude Deckenbach estimates the group reaches more than 3,000 children each year.

All donations are tax-deductible. To get details, e-mail firstbooksf@gmail.com or visit the group's website at www.first booksf.blogspot.com.

-Heather World

### Two Ways to Play on a Saturday in May

Looking for weekend fun in the sun that celebrates local community? You're in luck. Two free cultural events for families and children beckon on Saturday,

The Fairmont Elementary School FiestaVal transforms the Chenery Street campus into a fair boasting homemade food and such kid-friendly attractions as a jumpy house, hair-painting, and games with prizes. Student and community groups will showcase their talents on an outdoor stage dedicated to musical acts and dance performances, while both silent and live auctions offer an opportunity to give and receive through bids on merchandise, gift certificates, and tickets to Bay Area restaurants, businesses, and tourist destinations.

Money raised from food sales, games, and auctions will help fund Fairmount School programs in the arts, music, drama, physical education, and science, as well as library staffing and one-on-one tutoring and counseling services. FiestaVal takes place from noon to 4 p.m. at 65 Chenery St. Visit www.fairmount schoolpta.org or call 415-695-5669 for more information.

On the same afternoon, the Mission Neighborhood Centers, Inc., invites families and children to a free, day-long Cinco de Mayo Festival in Dolores Park. The alcohol-free, outdoor event will feature a wealth of Latino vendors from around the Bay Area, children's activities and games, Latino and Mexican food, arts and crafts, and musical performances from local dance and Mariachi groups.

A special focus will be given this year to green vendors and businesses offering earth-friendly products and services. Proceeds from the event will go to programs benefitting children, youth, and seniors at Mission Neighborhood Centers, Inc., which celebrates 50 years in San Francisco this year.

The event takes place from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in Dolores Park, between 18th and 20th streets. For more information, visit www.mncsf.org.

-Lorraine Sanders



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Noe Valley

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April 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29: MoBu Studio's Pal-ersize Adventures in Fitness presents PAL TIME-4-TOTS 9-9:40 am 1605 Church, 550-PALS.

April 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29: The Upper Noe SENIDRS meet on Wednesdays for socializing and bingo. Noon-3:30 pm. Upper Noe Rec Center, Day & Sanchez. 970-8061 or 695-5011.

April 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29: Eureka Valley Library's Wednesday BABY RHYME TIME, for newborns to 18 months, begins at 3 pm, a family story time for ages 2 to 5 starts at 3:30 pm. 100 Collingwood, 355-5616.

**April 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29:** Kiki-Yo offers a drop-in KIDS YOGA class from 4:45 to 5:30 on Wednesdays. 605B Chenery. 587-5454.

April 1-18: Little Tree Gallery hosts a joint installation by Pablo Guardiola and Haden Nicholl. Wed.-Fri., 3-6 pm; Sat., noon-6 pm 3412 22nd. www.littletreegallery.com.

April 1-29: Kids and their caregivers are invited for a free TDT TIME at the Upper Noe Rec Center, Mon., 10-11:30 am; Tues., 3-5 pm; and Wed., 3-5:30 pm. Day & Sanchez. 695-5011 or 970-8061.

**April 1-30:** OVEREATERS ANDNYMDUS meets Mon.-Sat., 7 to 8 am. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317.

April 1-30: Noe Valley SENIDR CENTER serves hot lunches for people over 60, week-days at 12:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 648-1030.

**April 1-30:** Kids in grades K-7 can get HDMEWDRK help at the Mission Library Monday through Thursday, 4-6 pm. 300 Bartlett. 355-2800.

April 1-30: Maria Tam teaches a YIJIN TAI CHI class at Upper Noe Rec Center on Wednesdays and Fridays, 7-8:30 pm, Day & Sanchez, 828-9436.

April 1-30: Bonnie Tomek exhibits PHD-TDS at Luv a Java coffeehouse. Mon.-Fri., 6 am-7 pm; Sat.-Sun., 7-am-7 pm. 1300 Dolores. 648-6959; www.bonnieomek.com.

April 1-May 2: City Art Cooperative Gallery hosts an exhibit, "GREEN." Reception April 3, 7-10 pm; Wed.-Sun., noon-9 pm. 828 Valencia. 970-9900; www.cityartgallery.com.

### APRIL 2009

**April 1 & May 6:** KIKI-YO continues meditation classes. Wed., 7-7.45 am. 605B Chenery. 415-587-5454

April 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30: A Thursday STROLLER WALK starts at Holey Bagel at 11 am and rolls through Noe and the Castro. 3872 24th. www.noestrolls.com.

April 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30: CANDLELIT YOGA at Kiki-Yo emphasizes deep relaxation. 7 pm, Thursdays. 605B Chenery. 587-5454

April 2–25: Carolyn Doyle performs a SHDW about raising an autistic child in Confessions of a Refrigerator Mother. Thurs.-Sat., 8 pm. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia. 641-0235; www.themarsh.org.

April 2-May 7: Bart and Judy Lewis offer couples a six-week Thursday-night BALL-RDDM DANCE class at Forest Hill Christian Church. 250 Laguna Honda Blvd. Reserve a spot at 661-2746.

April 3: Stephen Elliott and Peter Maravelis host a BDDK PARTY for Jerry Stahl's novel Painkillers. 7 pm. Amnesia Bar, 853 Valencia. http://therumpus.net/2009/02/stahl.

**April 3, 10, 17 & 24:** CLARE tells tales for kids at Cover to Cover's Friday-morning story hour, 10:30 am. 1307 Castro. 282-8080.

April 3, 10, 17 & 24: "Jazz in the Bookshop" features Don Prell's SeaBop Ensemble (April 3 & 10), the Jimmy Ryan Ouintet with guest Bishop Norman Williams (April 17), and the Chuck Peterson Ouintet (April 24). 5:30 pm. Bird & Beckett Books, 653 Chenery, 586-3733.

April 3, 10, 17 & 24: Yell "BINGO!" at St. Paul's Friday nights at 7 pm (doors open at 5 pm). Parish Hall, 221 Valley. 648-7538.

April 4: The Swinging GUITARS of Tom Huber and Misisipi Mike (8:30 am) and Devil's Slide (10:30 am) play the Farmers' Market. 24th & Vicksburg. 248-1332; www.noevalleyfarmersmarket.com.

April 4: SF City Guide Peter Field discusses the history of the TENDERLOIN. 10:30 am. Main Library, 100 Larkin. www.sfpl.org.

April 4: Friends of DDLORES PARK PLAY-GROUND provide sidewalk chalk for a drawing event for children up to age 11; music performed by the Lori Carsillo Trio. 11 amnoon. 582-3774. April 4: Jordan McKay, Andrea Johnson, and Bob Holmes discuss *Passion for Pinot. A Journey Through America's PINOT NOIR Country 2-*3 pm. Omnivore Books. 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282–4712; *www.omnivorebooks.com.* 

April 4: Artist Gary Brewer leads a tour through his "Seductive Nature" exhibition of STILL LIFES, 5 pm. ArtZone 461 Gallery, 461 Valencia, 441-8680; artzone461.com.

April 4: Maria van Lieshout hosts a BOOK PARTY to celebrate the publication of *PEEP!* A Little Book About Taking a Leap. 5 pm. Cover to Cover, 1307 Castro. 282-8080.

April 4: The Society of Single Professionals invites all ages to an ART & WINE Tasting Party at the Artists Alley. 7:30 pm. 863 Mission. 507-9962; thepartyhotline,com.

April 4: JAZZ VOCALIST Kendra Shank performs with her quartet at 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez, 454-5238; www.noevalleymusicseries.com.

April 4-May 23: In "Every Day in Black and White," Migdalia Valdes exhibits PHO-TOGRAPHS of urban life. Reception April 4, 6-9 pm; Wed.-Sat., noon-5 pm. Intersection for the Arts, 446 Valencia. 626-2787.

**April 5:** Rocket DDG RESCUE shows off dogs who need homes. Noon-4 pm. Zephyr Real Estate, 4040 24th. 642-4786.

**April 5:** Latvian piano prodigy Reinis Zarins gives a CONCERT at Latvian Cultural Center. 2 pm. 425 Hoffman. 550-9056; *Ivnc.org.* 

April 5: Latin Dance Grooves and the Edison School Drummers join the Youth Hip-Hop Dancers in a CARNAVAL fundraiser at Mission Cultural Center. 2-6 pm. 2868 Mission. 821-1155; www.missionculturalcenter.org.

April 5: AUTHDR Cara Black reads and signs *Murder in the Latin Ougrter*, 3 pm. Bird & Beckett Books, 653 Chenery, 586-3733.

April 5: Pearl Sofaer discusses her MEM-OIR *Baghdad to Bombay*, at Omnivore Books. 3-4 pm. 3885A Cesar Chavez, 282-4712; www.omnivorebooks.com.

April 5: Noe Valley CHAMBER MUSIC hosts a concert, "Piano Trìo Milestones," by Axel Strauss, Jean-Michel Fontenaeu, and Jetfrey Sykes. 4 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 648-5236; www.nvcm.org.

April 5, 12, 19 & 26: The Bliss Bar Sunday JAZZ SERIES features pianist Larry Vuckovich and guest artists. 4:30-7:30 pm. 4026 24th. 826-6200; www.blissbarst.com.

April 5 & 19: Go BIRDWATCHING with guides from the Presidio Trust and Golden Gate Audubon Society. 10 am. Crissy Field Center, 603 Mason. RSVP 561-5418.

**April 5 & 19:** SF City Guides leads free WALKING TOURS of Noe Valley. 1-3 pm. Meet at the Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 557-4266; www.sfcityguides.org.

April 6: Neil Fahy presents a slide lecture, "The SF EARTHOUAKE of 1906: Lessons in Leadership." 7:45-9 pm. Miraloma Park Improvement Club, 350 O'Shaughnessy. 281-0892: www.miralomapark.org.



J-Boogie takes over the Elbo Room for a *Soul Vibrations* record release party April 12.

April 6, 13, 20 & 27: Infants and crawlers are invited to sing and play in English and Spanish at BILINGUAL BABY PLAY at Mission Library. 1:10 pm. 300 Bartlett. 355-2800.

April 7: Marlene Aron gives a slide presentation on the life and work of Vincent VAN GDGH. 7-8:15 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; www.sfpl.org.

April 7, 14, 21 & 28. Sing along with Patrick Sosa at Phoenix Books' Tuesdaymorning STDRY HOUR, for newborns to age 4. 10 am. 3850 24th. 821-3477.

April 7, 14, 21 & 28. Chris Sequeira offers a half-price first month for classes in Qigong and TAI CHI: 10:15 am to noon at Walter Haas Playground, or Tuesdays evenings, 6 to 7:30 pm at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. Register: 773-8185.

April 7, 14, 21 & 28 Kadampa Buddhist Temple holds MEDITATION on Tuesdays. 7-8:30 pm. 3324 17th. 503-1187

April 7, 14 & 28: The Noe Valley Library sponsors TODDLER TALES, 10:15 to 10:40 am; and preschool STORY TIME, 11 to 11:30 am. 451 Jersey 355-5707; www.sfpl.org.

April 7 & May 5: The SPCA has a free PET LOSS support group. 7:30-9 pm. 243 Alabama: 554-3050.

April 8: The Main Library's RADAR READ-ING, hosted by Michelle Tea, features Renee Hahn, Lorelei Lee, Bucky Sinister, and Patrick O'Neil. 6-7.30 pm. 100 Larkin. 557-4400; www.sfpl.org.

April 8: The goals of the city HOUSING Element will be covered at a meeting at Glen Park Recreation Center. 7 pm. 70 Elk. 558-6284, housingelement2009.sfplanning.org.

April 9: Hear about resources for LGBT SENIORS at an Openhouse forum being launched at 30th Street Senior Center on the second Thursday of the month. 10 am. 225 30th. Michelle, 296-8995, ext. 5

April 9: The Bird & Beckett POLITICAL BOOK Discussion Group features Tim Weiner's *Legacy of Ashes*. 7 pm. 653 Chenery. 586-3733; www.birdbeckett.com.

April 11: Michael Schaffer plays MUSIC at 8:30 am and Failure to Disperse at 10:30 am at the Farmers' Market 24th & Vicksburg. 248-1332; www.noevalleyfarmersmarket.com.

April 11: The second annual EASTER EGG HUNT sponsored by neighborhood merchants and the Noe Valley Association runs from 10 am to noon in Douglass Park Playground. 26th & Douglass. 920-8232.

**April 11:** Meet local doulas and MIDWIVES at an ongoing second-Saturday event at Natural Resources. 2-4 pm. 1367 Valencia. 550-2611; www.naturalresources-st.com.

April 11: Sample DLIVE DIL and meet Fran Gage, author of *The New American Olive Oil*. 3-4 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; www.omnivorebooks.com

**April 11 & 12:** Video Wave sells DVDs from the past two years at a Spring Clearance Sale. Noon-4 pm. 1431 Castro. 550-7577.

April 11 & 12: Local artist IRENE HEN-DRICK shows contemporary work and "paintings of a bygone era" at a show next to Chloe's Restaurant. 1359 Church. 641-8882.

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**April 12:** Dub Mission hosts a RECORD RELEASE PARTY for J-Boogie's *Soul Vibrations*. 9 pm-2 am. Elbo Room, 647 Valencia. 552-7788

April 12-May 26: Art exhibit "NANCI REESE + Two" includes work by Greg Carlisle and Arnold Benetti. Reception April 18, 2-4 pm; Tues.-Fri., 8 am-4 pm. Gallery Sanchez, 1021 Sanchez. 282-7798.

April 13: Susan Edwards, director of the Noe Valley Nursery School, discusses Bay Area adventures for adults and kids at the ODD MONDAYS series at the Noe Valley Ministry. 7:30 pm; dinner Noe Valley Pizza, 5:30 pm (RSVP jisender@webtv.net). 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317.

April 15: Jim Illig of Project Open Hand and Anita Schaefer-Aaron from Lighthouse for the Blind address the Noe Valley DEMDCRATIC Club meeting. 7:30 pm. St. Philip's Church, 725 Diamond St. 641-5838.

April 15. Astrophysicist Andisheh Mahdavi discusses "CDSMIC ORIGINS: How Unseen Forces Led to the Rise of Stars, Planets, and Carbon-Based Life," at the SF Amateur Astronomers meeting. 7:30 pm. Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way. 554-9600.

April 16: The Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center hosts an LGBT SENIORS discussion group on the third Thursday of the month. 1 pm. 515 Cortland. 296-8995, ext. 5.

**April 16:** The EUREKA VALLEY Promotion Association meets the third Thursday of the month. 7:30 pm. Castro Meeting Room, 501 Castro. 437-9414; *www.evpa.org*.

April 18: Sandy Ross (8:30 am) and Jude (10:30 am) play the Noe Valley FARMERS' MARKET. 24th & Vicksburg. 248-1332; www.noevalleyfarmersmarket.com.

April 18: DPW hosts a volunteer cleanup of School of the Arts campus to celebrate EARTH DAY. 9 am-1 pm. 555 Portola. 641-2600; volunteer@sfdpw.org.

April 18: SHARDN ART STUDIO holds registration for summer youth art camps in glass, ceramics, jewelry, and watercolor. 10 am-noon. Children's Playground, Golden Gate Park. 753-7004; www.sharonartstudo.org.

April 18: DDGFEST 2009, to benefit McKinley School, features a parade, music, activities, and prizes. 11 am-3 pm. Duboce Park. 710-7387; www.mckinleyschool.org/dogfest.

**April 18:** WordParty celebrates National POETRY MDNTH with a reading at Mission Library. 3 pm. 300 Bartlett. 355-2800.

# CALENDAR

April 18: Author Molly Wizenberg discusses A Homemade Life: Stories and Recipes from My Kilchen at DMNIVDRE BDDKS. 3-4 pm. 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; www.omnivorebooks.com.

April 18: Noe Valley Music Series presents a program of Australian BEBOP RAGAS. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 454-5238; www.noevalleymusicseries.com.

**April 18-19:** Alvarado School holds a two-day RUMMAGE SALE to benefit PTA programs. Sat., 9 am-3 pm; Sun., 9 am-1 pm. 625 Douglass. 695-5695.

April 18-May 25: Linda Raynsford, Adam Cahoon, and Nicholas Coley exhibit ART at ArtZone 461 Gallery. Reception April 18, 5-8 pm; Wed-Sun., noon-6 pm. 461 Valencia. 441-8680; www.artzone461.com.

April 19: The Men of St. Paul's Church hosts a PANCAKE BREAKFAST, following the 8 and 9:15 am masses, 221 Valley at Church. 648-7538. www.stpaulsf.org.

April 19: Kids of all ages are invited to come SHARE A STORY in celebration of Noe Valley Book Week at the Noe Valley Library. 2:30-4:30 pm. 451 Jersey. To sign up to read, call Mindy at 377-3890.

April 19: Novelist Margaret Murray and travel writer Susan Alcom read from their work at 2:30 pm, an ACOUSTIC REGGAE concert begins 4:30 pm. Bird & Beckett, 653 Chenery. 586-3733; www.birdbeckett.com.

**April 19:** Noe Valley Ministry offers a free JAZZ VESPERS service featuring the Fred Randolph Ouartet. 5-6 pm. 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317; www.noevalleyministry.org.

April 20: SF Mystery Bookstore celebrates BDDK WEEK with authors Cara Black and Lisa Lutz. 7 pm. 4175 24th. 282-7444.

April 20: Atlas Café hosts a discussion, "FUSIDN ENERGY: The World's Largest Laser." 7-9 pm. 3049 20th. 648-1047; www.sciencecafesl.com.

**April 21:** FILMS for children ages 3 to 5 are shown at 10:15 and 11 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; www.sfpl.org.

April 21 & 28: Parents Place offers a WDRK-SHDP, "Parenting Together: Making Decisions as a Couple." 6-7:30 pm. 1710 Scott. 359-2454; www.ParentsPlaceOnline.org.

April 22: "Images of Nature in Art," a SLIDESHOW by Marlene Aron, includes work by Monet, Gauguin, Ansel Adams, and Georgia O'Keefe. 6:30-7:30 pm. Glen Park Library, 2825 Diamond. 355-2858.

April 23: The group CULINARY HISTORI-ANS of Northern California sponsors a discussion about 19th-century urban food cultures, with Michelle Branch. 5:30-7:30 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; www.omnivorebooks.com.

April 23: Cover to Cover Booksellers holds DATE NIGHT, with complimentary wine and cheese, in celebration of Noe Valley Book Week. 7-9 pm. 1307 Castro. 282-8080.

April 23: The 2009 Housing Element, the city's five-year vision for planning, will be on the agenda at the UPPER.NDE Neighbors meeting. 7:30-9 pm. Upper Noe Rec Center, Day & Sanchez. 285-0473.

**April 24:** A DOCUMENTARY about Harry Aleo and his racehorse *Lost in the Fog* opens at the Roxie Film Center. 3117 16th. Call for times: 863-1087; www.roxie.com.

April 24: National Dance Week kicks off with a youth performance by students from James Lick Middle School, plus a CONGA LINE featuring Latin hip-hop, lion dancers, and the Hot Pink Feathers marching band. Noon, Union Square, www.bayareandw.org.

April 24: A benefit for ROCKET DDG RESCUE includes an elaborate meal with tea, dessert, and a silent auction. 6-8:30 pm. Lövejoy's Tea Room, 1351 Church, 640-8463; www.rocketdogrescue.org.

April 24: Meet Alex Hatch, author of Cracks in the Asphalt: Community Gardens in San Francisco, at a Noe Valley Book Week and \* Earth Day party at Phoenix Books & Records. 7-9 pm. 3850 24th. 821-3477.

April 25: Damond Moodie (8:30 am) and Dennis Campagna & Friends (10:30 am) play the Noe Valley FARMERS' MARKET. 24th & Vicksburg. 248-1332; www.noevalleyfarmersmarket.com.

April 25: CARA (California Association of Retired Americans) leads a discussion of the measures on the May 19 special election ballot, at the Older Women's League. Social, 10 am; program, 11 am. 870 Market, Room 1185. 989-4422; www.owlsf.org.

April 25: BASOUE CHEF Gerald Hirigoyen discusses his cookbook *Pintxos* and shares appetizers at Noe Valley Book Week. 2-3 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez 282-4712; www.omnivorebooks.com.

April 25: Radical queer and trans folks meet up for a BURGER DUEEN Social. 5:30 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia. 282-9246; moderntimesbookstore.com.

April 25: The SF Parents of MULTIPLES Club holds its Spring Consignment Sale featuring 100 sellers of used clothing for babies to 8 years old. 9 am-3 pm. St. Mary's Cathedral, 1111 Gough. www.sfpom.org.

April 25: The Fret Not GOSPEL singers and Pastor Roland Pollard, who once backed up Sister Sledge and the Jackson 5, perform at 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 454-5238; www.noevalleymusicseries.com.

April 26: The 11th GLEN PARK FESTIVAL includes craft booths, a fire truck, children's activities, and live music by the Jeffrey Gaeto Jazz Duartet and Mestizo. 10 am-4:30 pm. Diamond between Chenery and Bosworth. 835-2112; www.glenparkfestival.com.

April 26: The TAMALES by the Bay Festival benefits the Benchmark Institute, based in Noe Valley. Noon-4 pm. Fort Mason Conference Center. 695-9296.

April 26: The sixth annual KEYBDARD MARATHON highlights dances written for the piano. 3 pm. Community Music Center, 544 Capp. 826-8670; www.sfcmc.org.

April 27: Poets Joanna McClure and David Meltzer read and sign their work at DDD MONDAYS. 7:30 pm; dinner Noe Valley Pizza, 5:30 pm (RSVP jlsender@webtv.net). 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317.

April 28: Rose Marie Beebe and Professor Robert M. Senkewicz discuss California before the GDLD RUSH at the monthly meeting of the SF History Association. 7 pm. St. Philip's Church, 725 Diamond. 750-9986; www.sanfranciscohistory.org.

April 29: PARENTS PLACE sponsors a workshop with Lee Ann Slaton, "Choosing a Preschool." 5:30-7 pm. 1710 Scott. 359-2454; www.ParentsPlaceOnline.org.

April 30: Bernal Heights Library BDDK CLUB discusses *Einstein's Dreams* by Alan Lightman 4 pm. Coleridge Park Homes, 190 Coleridge. 355-2810.

April 30 & May 1: SF State presents "Still Dreaming," a program remembering the Mexican and Chicano artists/DREAMERS of 1968. 8 pm. Mission Cultural Center for Latino Arts, 2868 Mission. 821-1155; www.missionculturalcenter.org

**April 30-June 17:** Creativity Explored hosts an exhibit by eight gallery artists. Reception April 30, 7-9 pm 3245 16th. 863-2108; www.creativityexplored.org

May 1-3: CounterPulse celebrates its fourth birthday with DANCE, theater, comedy, and musical performances. 1310 Mission. For a schedule: 626-2060; www.counterpulse.org.

May 2: MISISIPI MIKE (8:30 am) and Failure to Disperse (10:30 am) play the Farmers' Market. 24th & Vicksburg. 248-1332; www.noevalleyfarmersmarket.com.

May 2: The 15th Bay Area BRAIN TUMOR WALK benetits research and patient services. Registration 9-10 am; program 10 am-2 pm. Speedway Meadow, Golden Gate Park. 1-866-455-3214; www.bayareawalk.org.

May 2: A CINCO DE MAYO festival in Dolores Park features entertainment, vendors, and walking tours of Mission Dolores. 10 am-6 pm. 647-1533; www.mncsf.org

May 2: FIESTAVAL at Fairmount Elementary School offers games, music, refreshments, and a silent/live auction. 11 am-4 pm. 65 Chenery. 695-5669.

May 2: TANGO No. 9 performs with guest dancers and a vocalist at 8 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 454-5238;

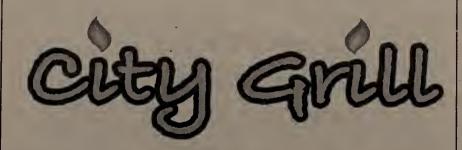
www.noevalleymusicseries.com

May 3: The SF Birth and BABY FAIR offers workshops, demonstrations, a raffle, and refreshments for new and expecting parents. 10 am-3 pm. Fort Mason. 867-0291; www birthandbabyfair.com.

### YES YOU MAY

The next Noe Valley Voice will be the May 2009 issue, distributed in Noe Valley the first week of May. E-mail calendar items by April 15 to calendar@noevalleyvoice.com or write the Noe Valley Voice, 1021 Sanchez St., SF, CA 94114. Note: Noe Valley events get priority, but we'll consider items from all over the city. Thank you.

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SUN APR 5 PEARL SOFAER • 3:00-4:00 PM • FREE Sofaer takes the reader through the color and clamor of her beloved Bombay market and across the world in her fascinating memoir, *Baghdad to Bombay*.

SAT APR FRAN GAGE • 3:00-4:00 PM • FREE
Fran Gage will talk about her new book, *The New*American Olive Oil, as we sample her favorite olive oils.

SAT APR 18 MOLLY WIZENBERG • 3:00-4:00 PM • FREE A Homemade Life: Stories and Recipes from My Kitchen Table. Wizenberg will talk about her new book, in which she recounts a life with the kitchen at its center.

THUR APR 23 MICHELLE BRANCH, J.D. • 5:30-7:30 PM FREE Culinary Historians of Northern California host a discussion about the role of 19th-century urban food cultures in shaping American consumer identities.

SAT APR 25 GERALD HIRIGOYEN • 2:00-3:00 PM FREE Gerald Hirigoyen, Basque chef of Piperade in San Francisco, will entertain and feed us from his new cookbook, *Pintxos*.

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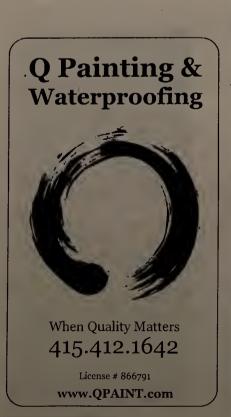


This report is courtesy of Jane Ivory, Hill & Co. Not intended to solicit properties currently listed for sale.



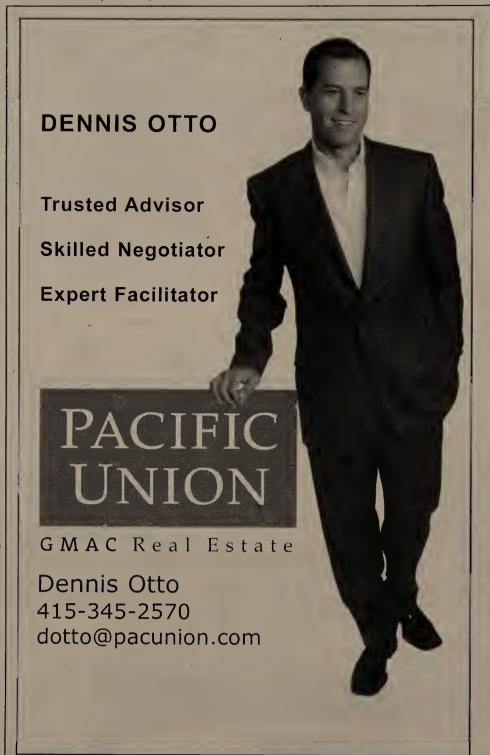








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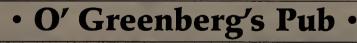
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### S T O R E T R E K

By Lorraine Sanders

Store Trek is a regular *Noe Valley Voice* feature, profiling new stores and businesses in Noe Valley. This month, we visit a much-anticipated restaurant on Castro Street and a real estate office on 24th Street with deep roots in Noe Valley.

CONTIGO 1320 Castro Street (at 24th Street) 415-285-0250

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Brett Emerson and Elan Drucker waited much longer than the average parents for their new baby to arrive.

"It's taken two-and-a-half years," Emerson estimates.

With visible amazement in her eyes, Drucker adds, "Our baby is so much bigger than we thought she was going to be. We didn't expect the response."

But theirs is no ordinary baby. It has a wood-burning oven and a heated patio with an organic vegetable garden, not to mention an enviable selection of Iberian wine.

Opened March 3 in the building that once housed Castro Computers (before it moved up the block), Contigo is the first of three restaurants given the green light to open in Noe Valley's main commercial corridor since a 19-year-old ban on new restaurants was amended in 2006.

For first-time owner and longtime chef Brett Emerson, the restaurant has been a labor of love, and in more ways than one.

To create a menu featuring small "picapica" plates (named after the Spanish word for "nibbles"), larger dishes or platillos, and Catalan flatbreads, Emerson drew heavily from the culinary traditions he fell in love with on annual trips to Spain over the past six years.

While preparing to bring a touch of Barcelona's romance to Noe Valley diners, he also discovered romance of his own.

During a chance conversation at Mission restaurant Bar Bambino some two years ago, Elan Drucker recognized Emerson from his popular food blog In Praise of Sardines (www.inpraiseofsardines.com).

"He said, 'If you like the food here, you should come to my restaurant,'" Drucker remembers.

Little did Drucker know that she'd one day be dating the chef and managing his cafe's operation.

Today, the couple live above the restaurant, whose name means "with you" in Spanish.

But a meal at Contigo offers more than a love story.

"We're offering flavors and flavor combinations you won't see at other restaurants, and certain products you won't see on other menus," says Emerson, who has worked at such Bay Area food heavens as Greens, LuLu, and Chez Panisse.

As an example, Emerson points to the sardinas fritas, a small plate of crispy fried sardine fillets with Meyer lemon, and judiones a la segoviana, a larger plate of pork belly, ears, and feet, with



Chef/owner Brett Emerson (right) and restaurant manager Elan Drucker are passionate about the food, the wine, and one another—at Contigo.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

Here's a peek at the small plates on Contigo's menu for March 22.

PICA-PICA (small plates)

Jardi (garden)

**Spanish** olives, fried Marcona almonds, pickled vegetables

Beets and clementines, almonds, sheep's milk ricotta, arugula Chicory salad, Point Reyes blue cheese, apples, hazelnuts, vinagreta

Catalan-style chard with pine nuts, golden raisins, and garlic Espárragos, asparagus, jamón chips,

green garlic, sieved egg

Patatas bravas, fried potatoes with
aioli, salsa brava

Mar (sea)

Montaditos, four assorted Basque-style nibbles on toasts Remojón, salad of salted cod, oranges,

Pulpo, octopus, radishes, fennel

Pulpo, octopus, radishes, fennel, sunchokes, caper berries

Musclos de la barca, mussels with rosemary and garlic

Calamares a la plancha, local squid with harissa, arugula

Sardinas fritas, fried sardine fillets and bones, Meyer lemon

Granja (farm)

Tortillas de hongos, frittata of potatoes and black trumpets

Croquetas de bacalao, salt cod

fritters, mizuna

Patatas a la Riojana, potatoes stewed

with chorizo, onion

Albóndigas, lamb and pork meatballs,

almond garlic sauce

**Bocadillo de cerdo,** pork belly, harissa alioli, pickled onions

Callos Madrileños, tripe and chickpeas from the wood oven

butter beans. On a typical evening, patrons can choose from 18 small plates (see box) and six platillos, featuring such entrees as lamb tagine with couscous, dates, turnips, and almond-cilantro salsa; sand dabs with artichokes and Romesco sauce; and "soupy" rice with asparagus, carrots, mushrooms, and egg.

Along with the *pica-pica* (\$8, or three for \$21) and *platillos* (\$12 to \$19), there are artisanal hams (\$9, or three for \$24) and *coques*, Catalan-style flatbreads fired in the wood-burning oven and seasoned with onion, bacon, or ham (\$12 to \$14).

For dessert, Contigo serves fried-to-order churros with Barcelona-style chocolate (\$8), Catalan lemon custard (\$7), and pistachio brown-butter cake with pears (\$7.50), to name just a few.

The wine selection includes four cava (Spanish sparkling wine) choices by the glass, five by the bottle, as well as a moderately-priced list (bottles are \$26 to \$73) of white and red varietals from France, Spain, and Portugal.

Emerson takes pains to use ingredients from organic, local, and humane producers. In addition to receiving weekly and in some cases daily deliveries from area farms, the restaurant buys from the Noe Valley Farmers' Market and the Ferry Plaza Farmers Market. The back of the menu lists suppliers like Blue Bottle Coffee, Far West Fungi, Knoll, Field to Family Poultry, Clover Organic, and Acme Bread.

The restaurant's green tendencies don't end with the food. Working with Oakland-based firm Envelope Architecture and Design, Emerson was able to mill and reuse the building's original 100-year-old redwood siding for the restaurant's interior walls, create tabletops using Douglas fir beams once part of the Valencia Street Levi Strauss factory, and build banquettes and cabinets of white oak reclaimed after the demolition of a Connecticut barn. Along with recyclable stainless-steel fixtures, Contigo has eco-friendly flooring, fume-free paint, and ceramic tiles that were seconds (more likely cast-offs) from Sausalito company Heath Ceramics.

The mixture of wood, metal appliances, and tiles creates a space that is rustic and modern at the same time. A cheerful spring green hue on the outdoor patio's walls continues into the bi-level dining room, whose two seating areas can accommodate up to 60 guests among wooden tables and booths and along a small wine bar.

Two weeks after opening, Emerson and Drucker report that the restaurant is welcoming a steady stream of diners, some arriving as late as 10 p.m. on weeknights, even in early-to-bed Noe Valley.

"We're focusing on being a neighborhood restaurant," says Emerson.

Contigo opens nightly at 5:30 p.m. On Sunday through Thursday, the restaurant holds its last seating at 10 p.m. On Friday and Saturday, it seats guests until 11 p.m. Reservations are accepted for parties of six or more.

STORE TREK
CONTINUED ON PAGE 35

# Feeling stuck?

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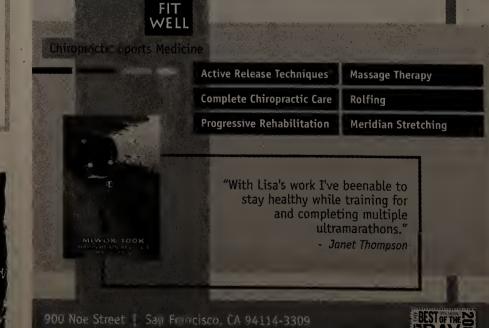
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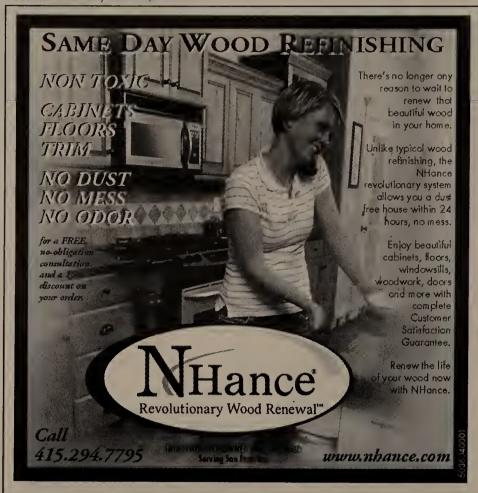
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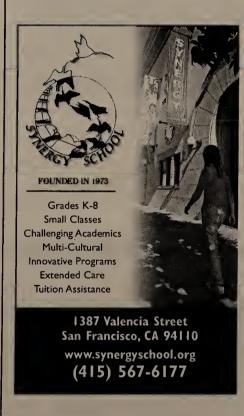
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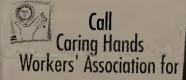
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### S T O R E T R E K

# Brown & Co. Noe Valley 4156 24th Street at Diamond 415-401-9900

### www.brownandco-sf.com

To say that the Noe Valley outpost of real estate company Brown & Co. offers agents who know the neighborhood is something of an understatement.

Now five agents strong, the 24th Street office, which debuted last June in the space formerly occupied by flower shop Indigo V, is headed up by longtime local resident Pete Brannigan.

"I grew up in Noe Valley, and so I do a lot of business here," Brannigan says.

Now living adjacent to the Noe Courts park on Homestead, Brannigan was raised in a home on 26th Street near Noe Street and attended St. Paul's School before going on to St. Ignatius, City College, and San Francisco State. Prior to joining Brown & Co., Brannigan spent 18 years working with B.J. Droubi & Company [now the Droubi Team], another neighborhood real estate company.

Larger than the Brown & Co. office in the Marina neighborhood and smaller than the location on Monterey Boulevard, the

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"We're a full-service brokerage, which means we do everything," says agent Charlie Mader.

To transform the space from a flower shop into a real estate office, the company repainted the walls a light blue, installed cabinets and desks, and added a modern welcome area with a gray sofa, coffee table, and white chairs.

As for changes in Noe Valley real estate trends, Brannigan reports that locals still seem to be looking for the same types of homes these days—they just tend to want them for less.

He adds:

"That big four-bedroom home is still very sought-after, but buyers today are a little more practical than they have been in the last few years.... If they want five things; they wait until they find the house that has those five things. They are more particular about their choices and buying decisions."

Brown & Co. is open Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Lorraine Sanders

415.699.6209



Noe Valley native Pete Brannigan, shown here with associate Donna Berka, manages the 24th Street branch of Brown & Co., which now occupies Indigo V's former storefront.

Photo by Pamela Gerard



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Byron Wong reports that he enjoys reading the Voice anywhere in the world This photo finds him in the Tijuca Forest above Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, where he traveled to experience Carnaval 2009. The famous Sugarloaf Mountain can be seen in the distance.



Jules Menke holds a vintage copy of her hometown paper during her trip to the Philippines. This photo was taken near Roxas City, where she visited family and friends.

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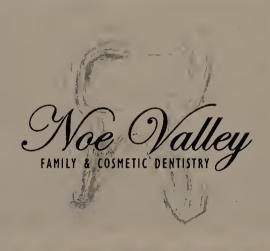
Of course the registry isn't just for weddings -- you're welcome to register for commitment ceremonies, graduations, birthdays, anniversaries, Mother's Day, Father's Day, & more.

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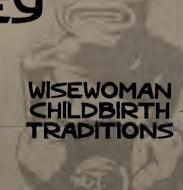
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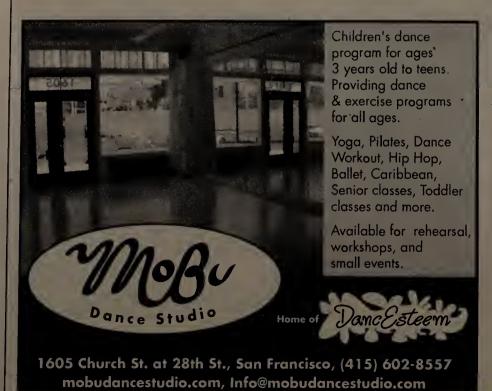
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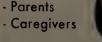


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Meetings: Second Thursday of the month,
Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100
Collingwood St., 7:30 p.m.

#### **Church Street Professionals**

Contacts: Gary Norman, 282-5685, or Susan Levinson, 647-3007 E-mail: gary.norman@edwardjones.com Meetings: Call or e-mail for information.

### Diamond Heights Community Association

Contact: Betsy Eddy, 239-5776 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31529, San Francisco, CA 94131 Meetings: First Thursday of the month, 7:30 p.m. Call for location.

#### **Dolores Heights Improvement Club**

E-mail: dhic123@gmail.com
Website: www.doloresheights.org
Meetings: Board meetings bimonthly; membership semi-annually.

#### **Duncan Newburg Association (DNA)**

Contacts: Pat Lockhart, 282-9360; Diane McCarney, 824-0303; or Deanna Mooney, 821-4045 Mailing Address: 560 Duncan St., San Francisco, CA 94131 Meetings: Call for details.

#### **Eureka Valley Promotion Association**

Contact: Scott Wiener, President, 437-9414
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 14137, San
Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: 7:30 p.m., Third Thursday of
January, March, May, July, September, and
November, at Castro Meeting Room, 501
Castro Street (upstairs)
Website: www.evpa.org

#### Fair Oaks Neighbors

Contact: Joyce Kurtz, 401-6362 Mailing Address: 261 Fair Oaks St., San Francisco, CA 94110 Note: The annual Fair Oaks Street Fair is held the day before Mother's Day.



### MORE GROUPS TO JOIN

### Fairmount Heights Neighborhood Association

Contact: Gregg Brooks
E-mail: sflyric@yahoo.com
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31059, San
Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: E-mail for details.

#### Friends of Dolores Park Playground

Contact: Eli Merritt, 285-3774 E-mail: emerr@earthlink.net Mailing Address: 3786 20th St., San Francisco, CA 94110 Meetings: E-mail for information.

#### Friends of Glen Canyon Park

Contact: Richard Craib, 648-0862 Mailing Address: 140 Turquoise Way, San Francisco, CA 94131 Meetings: Call for details.

#### Friends of Noe Courts Playground

Contact: Laura Norman
E-mail: lauranor@yahoo.com
Mailing Address: c/o Friends of Noe Valley,
P.O. Box 460953, San Francisco, CA 94146
Meetings: E-mail for dates and times.

#### Friends of Noe Valley (FNV)

Contact: Richard May
E-mail: rambooks@pacbell.net
Website: www.friendsofnoevalley.com
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 460953, San
Francisco, CA 94146
Meetings: First or second Thursday of the
month (call or e-mail to confirm), at
St. Philip's Parish Hall, 725 Diamond St.

### Friends of On Lok's 30th Street Senior Center

Contact: Marianne Hampton, 601-7845 Mailing Address: 225 30th St., San Francisco, CA 94131 Meetings: Occasional, Call for details.

### Friends of Noe Valley Recreation Center and Park

Contact: Alexandra Torre E-mail: noe\_park@atorre.com Website: www.noevalleyreccenter.com Meetings: E-mail or check website.

### Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association

Contact: John Barbey, 695-0990 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 192114, San Francisco, CA 94119 Meetings: Quarterly. Call for details.

#### Noe Screenwriting Discussion Group

Contact: Kendall Callas, 821-1310 E-mail: kendall@microcounsel.com Meetings: Monthly; e-mail for details. Pre-requisite: Completed a screenplay or a screenwriting course.

#### Noe Strolls "Playgroup on Wheels"

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### Noe Valley Association–24th Street Community Benefit District

Contact: Debra Niemann, nemo@rcn.com Dispatch: To report spills, debris, or garbage on 24th Street, call 559-8492.

#### Noe Valley Democratic Club

Contact: Andy Fleischman, 641-5838 Meetings: Third Wednesday of the month; St. Philip's Church, 725 Diamond St., 7:30 p.m. Parking available in lot off Elizabeth.

#### Noe Valley Farmers' Market

Saturdays, 8 a.m. to noon, on 24th between Sanchez and Vicksburg Street
Contact: Paula Benton, 248-1332
Mailing Address: 4104 24th St., #401, San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Second Thursday of the month,
Noe Valley Ministry (co-sponsor), 1021
Sanchez St., 8 p.m.

#### Noe Valley Library Campaign

Contacts: Kim Drew, 643-4695, kkdrew@yahoo.com; Marian Chatfield-Taylor, 626-7512, ext. 103 Mailing Address: Friends of the San Francisco Public Library, 391 Grove St., San Francisco, CA 94102

### Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association (NVMPA)

Contacts: Donna Davis, 647-2116, or Gwen Sanderson, 550-7577
E-mail: info@noevalleymerchants.com.
Meetings: Last Tuesday of the month, Bank of America, 4098 24th St. Check website www.noevalleymerchants.com for time.

#### Noe Valley Parent Network

An e-mail resource network for parents Contact: Mina Kenvin E-mail: minaken@gmail.com

#### Noe Valley Preparedness Committee

Contact: Maxine Fasulis, 641-5536 E-mail: *mfasulis@yahoo.com* Meetings: Call for details.

#### **Outer Noe Valley Merchants**

Contact: Jim Appenrodt, 641-1500 Mailing Address: 294 29th St., San Francisco, CA 94131 Meetings: Call for details.

### San Jose/Guerrero Coalition to Save Our Streets

Contact: Don Oshiro, 285-8188
E-mail: contact@sanjoseguerrero.com
Website: www.sanjoseguerrero.com
Meetings: See website.

#### See Jane Running Programs

Contacts: Shauna Nyborg, 415-401-8338; Deb DeFanti, 415-839-9393 E-mail: events@seejanerun.com Address: 3910 24th Street (at Sanchez) Website: http://www.seejanerun.com/ t-Training.aspx

### Southwest Mission Neighborhood Association (SWMNA)

Boundaries: 24th Street to Cesar Chavez and Fair Oaks to Mission
Contact: Lori Oshiro, Secretary
E-mail: lori@tail-wagging.com
Website: www.tail-wagging.com
Meetings: E-mail for information.

#### **Upper Noe Neighbors**

Contact: Vicki Rosen. 285-0473 Mailing Address: 169 Valley St., San Francisco, CA 94131 Meetings: Last Thursday of the month, Upper Noe Recreation Center, Day and Sanchez. 7:30 p.m.



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It's a Grand Day! Two-year-old Taylor Grand is a well-known regular at Martha & Bros. Coffee on 24th Street. Our photographer caught up with the red-headed youth at the dog statue in front of Lisa Violetto's. Photo by Pamela Gerard

### Summer Oaks 2009



#### **Dates and Times**

Grades K-5: June 22-August 14 (8 weeks) Grades 6-8: June 22-July 31 (6 weeks) Morning Session: 9:00 am - 12:00 noon Lunch Break: 12:00 noon - 12:30 pm

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### MORE BOOKS TO READ

#### The Library—Your Place for Escape

Tot everyone visiting the Noe Valley–Sally Brunn Library reads Proust, or tomes translated from the Norwagian Sally and from the Norwegian. So Voice literary scout Karol Barske, in honor of April foolishness, has picked a few odd ducks for this month's list of new adult titles. The children's volumes, on the other hand, were chosen by librarian Carol Small, and they relate to the usual subjects, such as dragons, dinosaurs, and playing with dirt. To check out the books—or CDs or DVDs escape to the library at 451 Jersey Street. Note that the branch is open Tuesday through Sunday (see hours below) and librarians Small, Susan Higgins, or Alice McCloud will be glad to help you. To get information from your sofa, call 415-355-5707 or go to www.sfpl.org.

#### **Adult Fiction**

- Cream Puff Murder: A Hannah Swensen Mystery with Recipes, by Joanne Fluke, includes 20 recipes woven into a tale of a bakery owner who discovers a body on the floor at her new gym and a cream puff that links the murder to her part-time boyfriend.
- Nick Rawlings is a handsome gun-for-hire who sets out to kill Satan in He Loves Me, He Loves Me Hot, Stephanie Rowe's follow-up to Date Me Baby, One More Time.
- In Dwayne Joseph's mystery *Home* Wrecker, Lisette finds a successful career helping wives get divorces by setting up a sting on their cheating husbands—that is, until she meets a client who is as manipulative as she is.
- No-nonsense physicist Portia inadvertently summons a spirit while attending a "fairy ring" in England, and winds up being kidnapped by a half-angel, half-human, in The Last of the Red-Hot Vaupires by Katie MacAlister.

#### **Adult Nonfiction**

- Bruce Lansky offers an extensive list of 60,000+ Baby Names, including the most popular in the U.S. in 2007 (according to the Social Security Administration): Jacob, Michael, Ethan, Joshua, and Daniel; and Emily, Isabella, Emma, Ava, and Madison.
- A 17-year-old finalist on American Idol discusses his life before and after the show, in Dancing to the Music in My Head by Sanjaya Malakar, with Alan Goldsher.

#### Children's Fiction

- Pamela Edwards read-aloud book describes all the steps it took to build Jack and Jill's Treehouse. Ages 3 to 6.
- Thirty-three characters of the Chinese alphabet come to life when Lin searches for her runaway friend, in The Pet Dragon: A Story About Adventure, Friendship, and

#### BRANCH HOURS

Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Branch Library 451 Jersey St., 355-5707 Mon Tues Wed Thurs Fri

10-9 1-9 10-6 1-6

Eureka Valley-Harvey Milk Branch Library 1 José Sarria Ct. (3555 16th St.), 355-5616 (Closed for renovation. Events held at Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100 Collingwood St.)

> Glen Park Branch Library 2825 Diamond St., 355-2858

Sun Mon Tues Wed Thurs Fri 10-6 10-6 12-8 1-7 1-6

> Mission Branch Library 300 Bartlett St., 355-2800

Mon Tues Wed Thurs Fri 1-9 10-9 10-9 10-6 1-6 Chinese Characters by Christoph Niemann.

- Patricia McKissack's Stitchin' and Pullin': A Gee's Bend Quilt tells about generations of Alabama women quiltmakers and their struggles for freedom. Ages 6 to 9.
- Bruce Coville, author of the Magic Shop Books series, offers a collection of nine curious tales in the tradition of Edgar Allan Poe, in Oddest of All. Ages 10 and up.

#### Children's Nonfiction

- In 1902, paleontologist Barnum Brown followed a map to the Montana Badlands, where he dug up dinosaur fossils, in Finding the First T-Rex by Kathleen W. Zoehfeld. Ages 7 to 9.
- Paulette Bourgeois' The Dirt ou Dirt takes a look at earth, mud, soil, and grime, and its importance to our planet; fun things to do with dirt are included. Ages 7 to 10.

Annotations by Karol Barske, of the Voice staff

#### LIBRARY EVENTS

#### The Life and Work of Van Gogh

■ Local author and educator Marlene Aron brings her popular lecture and slide show on "The Life and Work of Vincent Van Gogh" to the Noe Valley Library on Tuesday, April 7, Aaron will present more than 100 slides, including drawings and photographs from the 19th-century Dutch painter's early years. Aaron says few people are aware that "Van Gogh had a deep love and sympathy for the less fortunate, the poor, the working class. He was a lonely, brilliant man who created over 2,000 works of art and wrote over 800 letters in the last 10 years of his life. He had deep religious convictions, studied Eastern philosophy and religion, including Buddhism. He read, wrote and spoke in four languages fluently." The event will be held in the community room at 451 Jersey St. from 7 to 8 p.m.

#### **Toddler Tales**

■ Treat your baby or toddler, age 18 months to 3 years old, to books, rhymes, music, and motion at Toddler Tales, offered on Tuesdays, April 7, 14, and 28, at 10:15 a.m.

#### **Family Story Time**

■ The library invites you to Family Story Time, a read-aloud program for children 5 and younger, on Tuesdays, April 7, 14, and 28, from 11 to 11:30 a.m.

#### Films for Kids

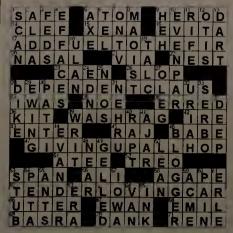
■ Kids ages 3 to 5 are invited to come watch a half-hour of Short Films on Tuesday, April 21, starting at 10:15 a.m. The program will

All events take place at the Noe Valley–Sally Brunn Branch Library at 451 Jersey Street. between Castro and Diamond streets. For information, call 355-5707.



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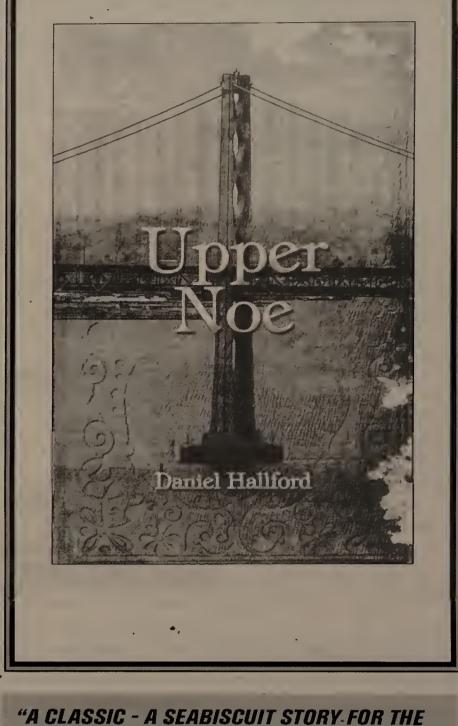
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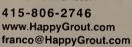
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#### REPORTERS

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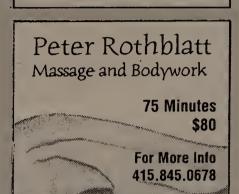
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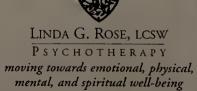
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ohn Paul Marcelo, artist and circus performer, spent last month at the corner of Cesar Chavez and Castro Street, immortalizing the northwest vista in an oil painting. "I liked the shape of the neighborhood, the curve of the street, and the hills in the background," he said. Starting April 11, Marcelo will show his landscapes

at Cafe Ponte at 24th and Diamond streets. An Upper Haight resident, Marcelo hails from Chicago. He performs as a poi fire dancer with Dreamtime Circus. Dreamtime tours have taken him to New Orleans and India, where Marcelo found a way to paint Gandhi's house. To see the artist's gallery, go to <a href="https://www.jpmarcelo.com">www.jpmarcelo.com</a>.

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10 for 10 discount: The Noe Valley Voice publishes 10 months a year. (We're on vacation in January and August.) If you place the same class ad in 10 issues, you are entitled to a 10 percent discount. To figure your cost, deduct 10 percent from the total amount due for 10 issues.

The next Voice will be the May 2009 issue, distributed in Noe Valley starting May 4.

The deadline for Class Ads is April 15. Note: The issue will be displayed for one month on our website: www.noevalleyvoice.com.

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The Voice Web Site has news and photos from the current issue, and searchable archives dating back to 1996.

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The next *Voice* will be the May 2009 issue, distributed in Noe Valley starting. May 1.

The deadline for Class Ads is April 15. Note: The issue will be displayed for one month on our website: www.noevalleyvoice.com.

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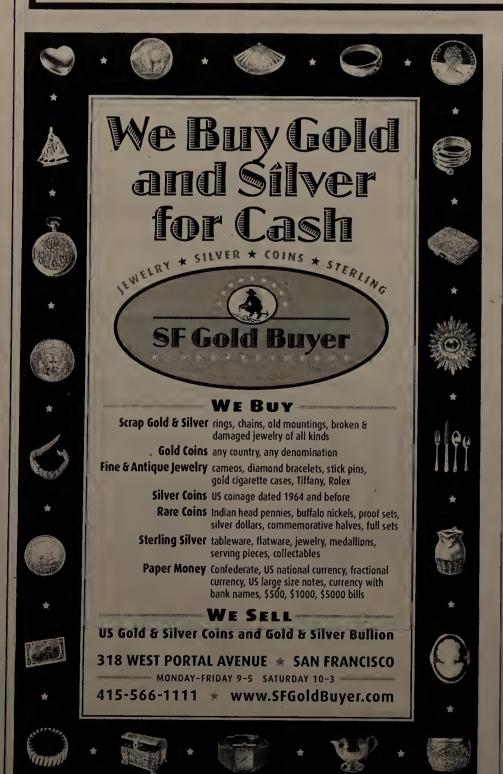
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### and now for the RUMORS behind the news

### April Fun Time

By Mazook

NOEBODY WAS ABLE to answer *all* 10 questions in last month's Noe History Quiz. Otherwise, their name would have appeared right here. (The Noe Valley Bureau of Investigation suggests that next time you do our quiz, try googling or searching key words at www.noevalleyvoice.com. Most of the answers will show up there.)

Too bad. The April 1 winner would have garnered not only kudos for their Noe knowledge, but also a Grand Prize, which my publishers have informed me was an "economic stimulus" package made up of four airline tickets to Kauai, Hawaii, with a five-day stay in a hotel on Poipu Beach. Oh, well.

Anyway, here are the questions and an'-

1. What is the 285-foot alley in Noe Valley named after a developer who built many single-family dwellings in the neighborhood during the 1880s and '90s? A: (Joseph) Comerford. Comerford Alley runs from Sanchez to Church, between 27th and Duncan streets.

2. Where was the Noe Theater? Where was the Palmer Theater? A: The Noe Theater stood on 24th Street near Noe. where the building that now houses Just for Fun is. The Palmer stood on the site now occupied by Wells Fargo Bank, on 24th near Castro.

3. Where was Video Uno? A: Our very

first video store opened in 1978, on 24th Street near Sanchez, where the French Tulip is now located.

4. How long has Douglass Park been a park? A: Happy 80th birthday. The park opened in April 1928. Previously the area was a rock quarry where dynamite blasts could be heard 'round Noe Valley.

5. Where did Janis Joplin live in Noe Valley when she started singing with Big Brother and the Holding Company? A: During the mid-1960s, Janis lived on the top floor of a building on the northwest corner of 22nd and Noe. Later, she bought a house in the Haight on Lyon near Page Street. Old-timers remember seeing Big Brother's band truck, a circa 1920 Ford, parked nearby, with a large logo on the side: "Overland Freak Express."

6. What was "Bud's 1. C."? A: Bud's Ice Cream, of course. Bud's was on the southwest corner of Castro and 24th streets, where Subs Inc. is now. The store was named after Bud Scheideman, who opened it in 1933 and sold it to his cousin Alvin "Bud" Edlin in 1952. Edlin started making incredibly rich ice cream in the back of the small soda shop. Word got out, and in the 1960s and '70s Bud's became a destination for Bay Area ice cream lovers. Rain or shine, there was always a line. Mr. Edlin died in June 2008.

7. Where was Dan's Gas and Diesel? A: The gas station occupied the lot now owned by the Noe Valley Ministry on the south side of 24th Street between Sanchez and Vicksburg. It's used as a parking lot and the farmers market on Saturdays.

8. What is the name of the neighborhood located between Upper Noe Valley and Glen Park? A: Fairmount. Fairmount was one of the city's first neighborhoods, because it was once a stagecoach stop on the way out of town. This was back in the 49er days, when San Francisco was still called Yerba Buena.

9. Who was the last San Francisco

mayor to build a house in Noe Valley? A: Mayor James "Sunny Jim" Rolph, who served from 1912 to 1932. The Tudorstyle house is located on the northeast corner of Sanchez and 21st streets and was built in 1928. It has a great view of the downtown skyline.

10. How many vacant stores were there on 24th Street from Diamond to Church on March 1, 2009? A: Seven. Those would be, from west to east: B.J. Droubi's old office, Riki, the old Wells Fargo minibranch, Streetlight Records, Bell Market, Noe Valley Video, and Real Food Company. During March, the short-lived AAA office closed.

#### 888

MAKING A SPECTACLE: Nobody knows when or how any of these stores will reincarnate and reopen, except for Bell Market, which will morph into a Whole Foods Market by fall, if all goes as planned. It seems like Real Food will never reopen and the store will stay empty till hell freezes over. To some, the April Fool's joke in Downtown Noe Valley is the high rent being asked for the spaces. Streetlight wanted \$12,000/month in November. Downright laughable.

A certain eating place has been for sale for a while at a price close to \$200,000, with no takers. Another DNV business opportunity, a liquor store for sale at \$169,000, has been listed on the Web for several months.

One shop that closed last October, Glare, actually reopened last month. The eyewear shop, located at 4021 24th Street, has discarded its line of very expensive sunglasses for very inexpensive regular prescription frames and lenses.

"We were going to close the store up and move it to the East Bay," says Glare owner and optician Dimitri Grunhauser, "but we decided that this location was too. good to give up. So we have hired a licensed optician to be on the premises, Deejay Kollar, and now offer discounted designer frames that are high quality but have 'out of date' designs." Grunhauser says you can come in with your optical prescription, pick out frames, and the shop will manufacture the lenses at a total cost of \$200. "That's a better price than Costco, only this is real quality stuff," he

Grunhauser and Olga Terry also own Spectacles for Humans, which is on 24th Street at Vicksburg (next to Martha's). Their lens-making lab is in the back of the store. Anyone who has shopped there for glasses knows they specialize in high-end designer frames, such as the Danish frames by Orgreen, Reiz from Germany, and the Italian rims Derapage. Prices for these frames are more in the Costmorange from \$475 to \$900, not counting the

"We have people coming from all over the Bay Area for these frames, since we are the only ones that have them," says Grunhauser. "We just opened a new space in downtown Los Angeles offering these high-end rims, which we have found are in very high demand. We've been very

#### 888

WE HAD THE LAST LAUGH Coffeehouse, on the corner of Dolores and Valley streets, and now we'll get to amuse ourselves at its replacement, Noeteca, owned by Scott McDonald and Alex Kamprasert.

"The name came to me in my sleep," says Kamprasert, who used to work at Chloe's Café but who for the past year and a half has been the food and beverage manager at the 500-room Holiday Inn at Van Ness and Pine. Noeteca is a takeoff on the Italian word for wine bar, which is

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



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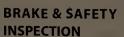
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### RUMORS

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"enoteca," but Noeteca the cafe will be much more than that.

"We will have coffees and pastry in the morning when we open at 7 a.m., and be serving breakfast after 8 a.m. and then lunch. Dinner will be available from 4:30 to 9:30 p.m., with a focus on comfort foods, and we will be serving about 25 different wines as well as beer, and nonalcoholic drinks," says Kamprasert.

McDonald notes that Noeteca's opening has been delayed slightly, "but we have been working on the various renovation issues and waiting for the ABC to approve [the change in ownership]. We hope to be open by the end of April."

#### 888

A STORE WITHIN A STORE is what you will find when you visit When Modern Was, the antiques/vintage jewelry store at Church and 27th owned by Dona Taylor and Kimberly Karnes. Last month, a small shop called the Secret Garden opened in the back of WMW. It's independently owned and operated by neighborhood resident Debbie Cole, whose last shop was the Pickled Hutch.

Says Cole, "I wanted to get back into having a business in the neighborhood, and this opportunity came up.'

Her Secret Garden offers plants, vintage garden furniture, statues, bird baths, and light fixtures.

In another store within a store item, Pacifica jewelry designer Pamela Winston-Carbonneau has joined Lisa Violetto in Violetto's many-faceted gift shop at 3932 24th Street. The new section of the store is called "Successories," and features Winston-Carbonneau's "Cute as a Button" line of rings, pins, and pendants made with vintage buttons. Violetto says Winston-Carbonneau is a longtime friend, and "This year [in light of the recession] we're dedicating ourselves to helping local artists and artisans. So the shop will be carrying a lot of handmade and local art." She also wants to thank all the Noe Valleons who have come in to buy "a little something" lately. "We really do appreciate the support we've been getting from our customers."

#### 888

WHERE THERE'S SMOKE: Rumors that the San Francisco Fire Department's firehouse on 26th between Church and Dolores will be threatened with rolling brownouts to save money for the city have upset many neighborhood residents. An online group called saveourfirehouses .com says, "Over the next few months, San Francisco city politicians will decide whether to reverse a decision by voters in 2005, to protect funding to keep our neighborhood firehouses open. If they reverse our vote, firehouses in our neighborhoods will be closed periodically and unable to respond to emergencies."

The saveourfirehouses.com group appears to be sponsored by the S.F. firefighters' union, whose members are apparently worried about the budget axe being applied to the Fire Department. However, according to San Francisco Fire Department spokesperson Mindy Talmadge, who works in the fire chief's office, there has been no hint of this from City Hall. We'll see.

#### 888

IT WAS NO JOKE when Alyson Brewer-Hay came home to her Elizabeth Street house on March 24 and was greeted by

San Francisco Police Officer Miguel Granados and Deputy City Attorney Michael Weiss. Evidently, the gentlemen were responding to a neighbor's complaint that an "open bar/brewery" was being operated on the B-H premises.

As you might know, Brewer-Hay and her husband Richard are the creators of the "Elizabeth Street Brewery (ESB)." The ESB is actually a storage space in their garage, where they've been homebrewing beers and ales for three years. Periodically, they invite friends and neighbors to their house to sample their brew for free (see the December 05 and March 09 issues of *Voice*). In the future, the Brewer-Hays would like to do nothing more than brew their beers and sell them in a shop in Downtown Noe Valley.

Regarding the investigators, Richard says, "After they were able to see for themselves, both of them realized that we were neither conducting a business nor operating a bar, and the matter was quickly resolved. So, no worry, we can continue to brew the beers and invite friends and neighbors to taste our beers and tell us what they think. We will refine the recipes by this invaluable research." Oh, good.

Richard, by the way, has the title Chief Blogger for the online auction site eBay. He also runs an ESB website (elizabeth streethrewery.com) and tweets on Twitter as ESBAle.

After the incident, he blogged about the neighbor's complaint to his many online friends and colleagues, and received feedback from numerous sources. He says that while some people questioned why the "neighbor" would go to the police first and not to the Brewer-Hays, "it was pointed out to me that I didn't go to each of my neighbors' homes last December before I slapped an 'Open' sign in the middle of my driveway inviting folks in for a beverage. If one were to visit our [ESB] website and see the sign outside our home, one could easily think that we are a professional operation, without investigating further.'

Besides mirroring his neighbors, Richard has been busy entertaining the media-hounds, who seem to be finding fertile ground in Noe Valley these days.

Says Richard, "Since this occurred, I have noticed a large spike in my Twitter feed, with [new subscribers and] people from ABC, KCBS, FOX News, the Chronicle, and other news organizations."

Will the Brewer-Hays make hay brewing? Will they open a beer garden in Downtown Noe Valley one day? Who knows, maybe Real Food can be turned into Real Beer.

#### 888

THAT'S ALL, YOU ALL. Have a foolish April. We'll be back at you in May. Ciao for now.

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### Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace, Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy;

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Amen





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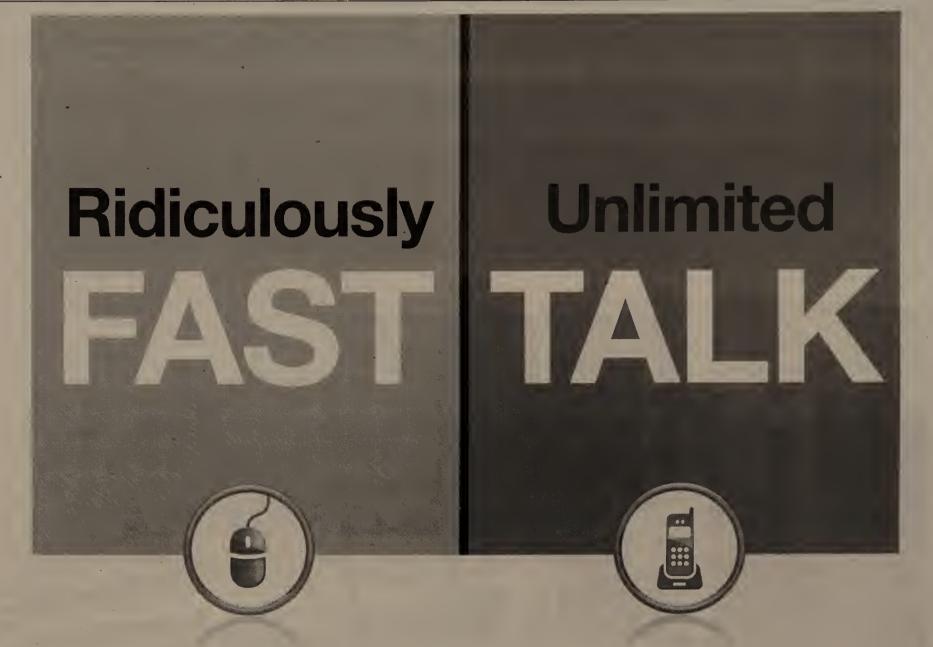
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### People Fed Up with **Wait for Slow Food**

By Slim Pickins

horde of starving Noe Valleons dc-Ascended like pigeons on the parking lot of the former Bell Market, demanding that a grocery open for business immediately on 24th Street, before Whole Foods arrives next September. The closing of Bell left the neighborhood high and dry-

"We've gone since February 15 without groccries," cries Ginny Craig, an Elizabeth Street resident. "I'm using the last of the lettuce I bought then, and the wheat bread is all green."

Although Whole Foods is scheduled to open a small-scale mega-grocerateria in September, and Tom DeLay, spokesperson for Fred Organicals, insists Real Food will be reopening soon, the famished folks of Noe Valley say they can't hold out much longer.

"We're really, really, really hungry," said Dagwood Bumstead, an out-of-work sandwich designer.

The Real Food store has been "under renovation" for the past 17 years. "I can't wait to see what's inside, after all the time they've put into it," said 23rd Street resident Pattie Melt.

### 99-Cent Store Opens on 24th Street

By Suze Orman

lieg lights scanned the unseasonably warm spring sky announcing the opening of the first-of-its-kind 99-Cents Stock Store on 24th Street. Mothers with small children in tow, teenagers with nose rings, and gray-haired baby boomers charged through the double-glass doors of the once vacant Real Good, for an opportunity to purchase a piece of recently devalued corporate America.

Long metal shelves stocked with common household names-Citibank, Merrill Lynch, and Fannie Mae-grew bare quickly, as shoppers filled their carts, canvas bags, and empty strollers with unheard of bargains. Wire-mesh bins dotted the ends of the aisles with two-for-one offers on US Airways and Delta.

"I never thought I could own a piece of the bank that held my foreclosed mortgage while collecting unemployment," said Sanchez Street resident Tom Joad, while sipping a free cup of Lehman Bros. Coffee, "Even Chuck Schwab can't beat these prices."

Long lines snaked through the store as giddy bargain hunters quickly adapted to the cash-only business. One hour after the doors opened, manager Michael Milkem closed the doors to newcomers per order of the San Francisco Fired Department. A party-like atmosphere broke out when two children saw a mini-van on the Manager Specials aisle and started screaming, "Mommy, can we please buy a Ford or a GM?! Please, please, please!"

Several parents attempted to get around the per-customer purchase limits set by the SEC by having their children stand in line, only to be told that buyers must be 18 years or older. "If you add up the ages of my three children, you get 18," argued 25th Street resident Pear Sterns.

. "I can rest easy now, knowing that I've helped so many novice investors," declared owner Bernie Madoff as he swept up the red, white, and blue crepe paper streamers littering the sidewalk...

#### Hole Foods

We stock them all-donuts, onion rings, pineapple slices, swiss cheese, Bundt cakes, Life Savers



### **Whole Foods Offers Good Trips**

By Cal A. Bell

xcited about the success of its Tues-C day shuttle from Noe Valley to Whole Foods on Potrero Hill, regional vice president Chick P. Bean has expanded the van service to other Whole Foods locations.

"Since many of our more discerning customers expressed a desire to taste foods grown in other environs, we decided to offer this exclusive service," announced Bean in the organic grocer's e-mail

newsletter Sour Grapes.

The once-a-week free service, set to begin on April 1, will operate on Wednesdays from 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. A 13passenger van will make a continuous loop, picking up shoppers in front of Bell Market at 33950 24th Street and taking them directly to the Robson Street Whole Foods in Vancouver, Canada, and the 97th Street location in New York.

"If demand is great, we'll be happy to consider adding Paris and Hawaii to the schedule," said Florence Fennel, vice president for marketing and customer service.

Photo by Jacqueline LaFeet



Excuse Me, Butt... Modeling the latest men's fashion, knee pants, a Rabat supermodel shows Noe Valley how to pull off this up-to-the-minute look. Photo by Fluta DeLoom

Affordable Staycations in Noe Valley offer a restful sojourn in familiar surroundings. Single room to mini-mansion, your own home comfortably furnished by you to your needs and specifications. Daily, weekly, and monthly rates include use of your kitchen and bath, laundry if you have one, and outdoor space where applicable, 510-SIT-STIL. Cash-4-Money: Send us your old money, and get cold hard eash! It's easy. Just fill the postage-paid envelope with your wrinkled bills and tarnished coins, and we will RUSH you actual cash. Don't delay, don't hesitate, don't even think about what you're doing. Just fill up the envelope and drop it in the mailbox. We'll do the rest. 800-QWK-CASH. Piranhayana Yoga concentrates on strengthening the jaw and teeth. Classes offered lunchtimes in Noe Valley. 555-CHUM.

Lawn Order: NV. You have the right to stamp out crabgrass, and win the war on weeds. Anything you spray can, and will, be used against pests. You have the right to flowers. If you cannot afford them, some will be pointed out to you. 555-4DDT. Overweight? Overopinionated? Undereducated? If this is you, or someone you know, well, there's really not much we can do about it. Just keep away from 25th Street. And, while you're at ii, keep away from me

Noe Valley Fleakeepers now hiring performers for 2010 circus. Must know basic larval moves, including jump, Iwitch, flail, and nip. 555-ITCH. Hardscrabble Childhood? Did you always ge1 the Q, and never pick a U? Did your mother know words like "adz" and "qat"? Daniel Webster Counseling and Challenges, I-800-TRPL-WRD.

### COWLANDER

April 1: SF Film Fest screens Droob-E, a film about a lonely robot who falls in love with a realtor and brings life back to Noe Valley. 7 pm. Compacio Theater, 1 Wall St. 555-AWE.

April 1: Dave "Easter" Eggers hosts a DI-GRESSIVE READING about rabbits and bunnies, "Hare We Are," featuring Michelle Peeps, Wascally Wabbit, and Elmir Fudd. 8 pm. Hopwell's, 2100 Jump St.

April 2: Disgruntled 25th Street residents are invited to the city's annual WIFE SWAP MEET sponsored by ABC TV. I am. Civil Center, 100 Poke at Grovel St.

April 2: The ODD THURSDAY series at the Noe Valley Ministry holds a Brussels-sprouts eating contest to benefit Vegetarians Anonymous of the Bay Area. 7 pm; no-roast dinner at Cookez, 5 pm. To reserve, strain liquid.

April 3: Whole Goods Market and the 24th String Cheese Co. mediate their differences at a "Come to CHEESES" meeting, 4 a.m. Sun Valley Cows Dairy, 1601 Church.

#### Yul Brynner Sues Local Mailery

The estate of the late Yul Brynner has filed a \$10 million dollar copyright infringement lawsult against 24th Street business Mailboxes Etc. The bald-headed actor, known for his portrayal of the title character in the 1962 epic Taras Bulba (Tony Curtis played his brother, Andrei Bulba), filed the suit April 1, 2009, when his executor and frequent costar Sylvia Nefertiri observed that the postal/copying/packaging business was using one of Brynner's trademark phrases.

"In *The King and I*, as the king of Siam, he said over and over, 'etcetera, etcetera, etcetera.' It was 'this, etcetera' and 'that, etcetera.' You just can't miss it," Nefertiri attested. "Now this bubble-wrap business is cashing in on his fame, etc."

Besides the hefty damages sought, Brynner's estate is demanding that Mailboxes Etc. cease and desist using his trademark "etc." and change its signs, receipts, and bags, etc., to read "Mailboxes and So On and So Forth."



Burnin' Up the Racetrack: Following the resounding success of last year's Barack Obama candle, local tchotchketorium Just for Awesome introduced the popular Herb Caen and Harvey Milk candles. The latest addition to the line, the champion Lost in the Fog candle, is already a million seller, with a percentage of the proceeds going toward sod restoration at Bay Meadows.

Photo by Smokey Stover

**ZOMBIE BANK & TRUST** 

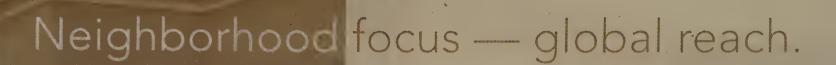
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Full Transparency:
Wonder why this April Fool's issue is hitting the newsstands on April 2 instead of April 1?
We like to know what we're talking about! (to paraphrase

Thank you for your patience



#### FEATURED PROPERTIES



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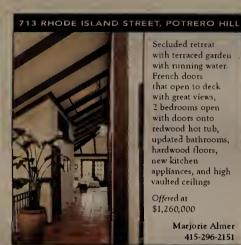
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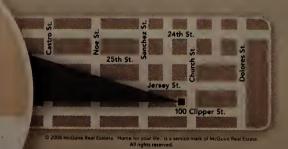
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# TOO BIG TO FAIL

Pooch Wins Top Prize

### 'Pound-Dog Millionaire' Stuns Hollywood

By Lassie Faire

Back in the day when he was called "Scram!" or "you mangy mutt," Alpo never dreamed he would be rich. In fact, as a lifelong stray, he never walked on a leash, had a bath, or ate bacon-flavored Snausages. Of course, that was before the former resident of Animal Care and Control appeared on the game show Who Wants to Be a Millionaire, broadcast nationwide April 1.

It all started when the show held auditions for contestants at the Cow Palace, just down the road from ACC's lockup for dogs, Bitmo. Alpo managed to escape the prison, and with one muddy pawprint, found himself on the *Millionaire* contestant list. Due to a clerical error, he was picked to compete on the show despite being a dog.

The day of filming finally arrived Feb. 30. When the studio lights dimmed, the only spotlight was on Alpo.

Show host E. Gregious Fillbin posed the first question:

"What covers the trunk of a tree?"

After some nervous tail-twitching, Alpo answered, "Bark."

"What is the top of a building called?" "Roof."

"What is the opposite of smooth?"

"Ruff," Alpo replied.

Before a stunned audience of television viewers, Alpo answered one question after another correctly.

As the stakes got higher, Alpo was called into a conference with the show's producers, who thought he might have gotten ahold of the answers prior to appearing.

"He just knew too much," explained Rabid O. Selznick. "But it appeared he came to his knowledge legitimately, during his time as a dog."

The show resumed, and E. Gregious Fillbin read the next question:

"What baseball player was known as the Sultan of Swat?"

Without hesitation, Alpo spoke: "Ruth!"

"Who owns the Cala/Bell grocery corporation?"

"Ralph!"

The tension was mounting. "In weaving, what are the threads called that are woven side to side through the warp?"

Alpo shouted, "Woof!"

The final question was at hand.

"Who was the Chinese Communist leader in power from 1949 until 1976?"

This million-dollar question sent a buzz through the audience. "He'll never get this one," the crowd agreed. Alpo himself seemed perplexed, and for the first time, chewed his paw.

"May I phone a friend?" he asked. Fillbin dialed Maddie's Adoption Center, and Mr. Mistoffelees answered.

When asked the final question, the name of the Chinese leader, the cat spoke: "Mao!"

The rest is history.



Turn About Is Fair Play: In a reciprocal agreement arranged by the owners of Just for Fun, St. Martin de Porres will be making appearances as President of the United States, whenever Barack Obama is busy being on a candle.

Photo by Life Swop

#### Strong Evidence of Life On Diamond Heights

By Madge Gellin

Noe Valley astronomers have been scanning the skies, ever since the clear night of April 1, 2009, when pairs of moving lights were seen around the unexplored area just west of the neighborhood.

"These aren't airplanes or reading lights or anything we've ever seen before around here," said Dana Scully-Mulder, a member of the Noe Astronomers Space Association (NASA). "I want to believe there's someone out there who's somehow trying to tell us something."

The area west of Noe Valley has long been considered uninhabitable, with fierce winds and hazardously cold tem-

He Cleans Up Well: These before-and-

after photos of Noe Valley's quiz show

couth highrise owner he is today.

champion, Alpo Bottoms, show him as a

former mongrel (top) and as the kempt and

peratures. Rumors and folksongs have described a large body of water beyond the hills, possibly full of whales, manatees, and mermen. A few fearless explorers have scaled the hills and entered the bleak and lawless region, never to be seen or heard from again.

Lester Yetwah, for one, was a cook at Tien Fu on 24th Street in the 1980s, until wanderlust—some called it madness—made him leave the valley for the siren song of the unknown land.

More recently, daredevil pilot and organic farmer Mollie Stone also made the trek over the hill, and although there has been no word from her, Noe Valleyans haven't yet given up hope.

Meanwhile, the light show continues. And we must ask ourselves: are we alone in the universe, or is there actual life outside of Noe Valley?

### 25 Random Things About Me

By Noe Valley

- T'm not really a valley, I'm a terrace.
- ◆ I was actually named after Henry de Jesus Noe.
- ✓ I secretly wish I were affordable.
- I got arrested once, for stealing a Google bus on Castro Street.
- I remember when Twin Peaks used to be Triplets.
- **▼** I enjoy feeding goats.
- Frank Lloyd Wright designed most of my Victorians.
- A creek never ran through here.
- ✓ I don't really like dogs.
- One time I slept with Glen Park.
- There were actually fifty 49ers.
- Can somebody please tell me who this guy Harvey Milk is?

- The cook at Speckmann's was Italian.
- I miss Launderland.
- I can't count.

Fees at Park Pretty "Ruff"

# Seats for Sale at Rec Center

By Sal Capone

Former Illinois governor Rob Blagojevich took over management of Lower Noe Rec Center in April, and swiftly moved to implement the city's new Payto-Play park policy.

"Fees at most parks have been hiked," Blagojevich confided to the *Voice* via a secure tapped phone. "But this Noe Valley rec center is [bleepin'] golden."

The city has set higher rates for the swingsets in the children's playground, he explained. Starting April 1, after the first free swing *up*, kids (or their parents) will have to pay a dime to swing *back*.

In addition, seniors will pay 35 cents a minute to sit on a park bench, and spectators in the baseball bleachers will be charged a nickel per inning observed. All park concessions will be monitored by Blagojevich's wife, Patty.

The park also has increased the maximum height for Tiny Tots to 67 inches. (Tater Tots will need to get conditional use permits.) However, group discounts will still be available to mothers with at least eight children under the age of 1.

The rules at Jolly's Dog Run have changed, too. Dogs will get one bark free, but will be charged 50 cents for each additional bark thereafter. A \$3.5 million bark detector will be installed to monitor "ruffs" and "yips," Blagojevich said.

Meanwhile, DPW crews flown in from Chicago are erecting a toll booth at the corner of 29th and 30th streets.

"But until they finish putting up the booth, people will be allowed to pay with fish," Blagojevich said.

In response to an outcry from residents, Supervisor Bevel Dufty said he was rushing to apply for CARP funds.



Photo by Soroh Tonin

### Two-Headed Man Speaks at Town Hall

Although he was of two minds, Sergei O. Gufty, a lobbyist for victims of bipolar disorder, alarmed the crowd assembled at a recent Noe Valley Town Hall when he began talking out of all four sides of his mouth.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 54